

(Continued on page 7)

Iran renews Afghan mediation, offers to host conference

KABUL (Agencies) — An Iranian delegation on Monday continued talks with faction leaders here as it reiterated Tehran's offer to hold a regional conference on the war in Afghanistan. The talks got under way, five people were killed, including a seven-year-old girl, when Taliban rockets slammed into the western edge of the capital in apparent retaliation for a government offensive that began earlier in the day.

Day-long fighting between government soldiers and rival Taliban troops has forced the closure of the road between Kabul and Maidan Shahr, about 45 kilometres south-west of the city.

"I tried to get through to Maidan Shahr but at the last government check post they turned me back saying 'it's too dangerous,'" said Wali Jan, a truck driver, who routinely plies the rocket-ravaged road.

A barrage of more than one dozen rockets blasted the western edge of the city. Witnesses said a young girl was playing in the dirt outside a vegetable shop was killed when a rocket landed nearby.

Several more people were wounded.

The Taliban militia, an army of former religious students turned guerrilla fighters, is trying to over-

throw President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government.

There was no one immediately available from the government to comment on the latest round of fighting.

The leader of the Iranian delegation, Murtaza Sarmadi, Iran's deputy foreign minister for cultural affairs, told a press conference at the Iranian embassy here that he had met with President Rabbani and his military strongman Ahmad Shah Masood, since arriving last Saturday.

He had also held talks with Mr. Rabbani's former rival Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who became prime minister in June this year, he said.

Mr. Sarmadi said he would next travel to the central Afghan capital of Bamian to meet with Karim Khalili, leader of the opposition Hezb-e-Wahdat faction.

Wahdat faction fighters are recruited from the Hazara ethnic group who are followers of the Shiite sect of Islam, the same as the state religion of Iran but which is a minority faith in Afghanistan.

Mr. Sarmadi reiterated Iran's offer to hold a regional conference in Tehran in order to solve the war in Afghanistan, but declared participation would be limited.

"Only Afghanistan and its

neighbouring countries have been invited to this regional conference," said Mr. Sarmadi.

He said that contrary to other countries' proposals for a similar conference, the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, who include the United States, would not be invited to Tehran.

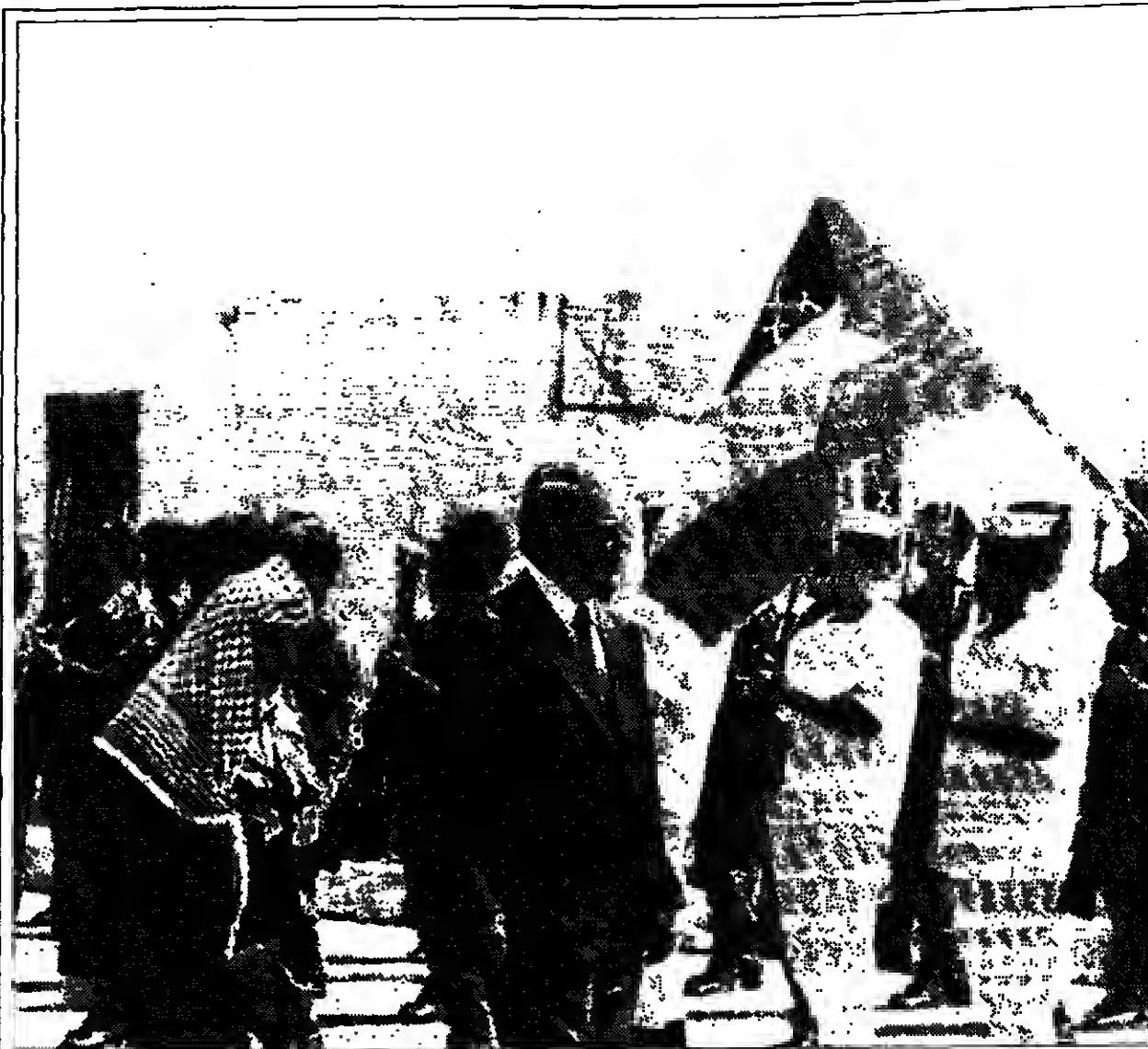
Although he stressed Iran had no wish to "dictate any formula" to the Afghan people, Mr. Sarmadi said: "Our main policy is to encourage other groups to join the peace process."

In answer to a question he said: "War is not a solution to the Afghan problem."

After visiting the Wahdat leader in Bamian, Mr. Sarmadi said his delegation would visit Mr. Rabbani's Uzbek rival, ex-communist General Abdul Rashid Dostum in Mazar-e-Sharif.

Last Thursday in a landmark agreement heralding a hoped-for peace between Gen. Dostum and the Kabul government, the Salang Highway linking the north of the country with the Afghan capital was reopened after nearly three years closure due to factional fighting.

However, Mr. Sarmadi said on this trip he would not be meeting with the Taliban movement.



AUSTRIAN STATE VISIT: Palestinian President Yasser Arafat walks alongside Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky as the visiting head of state reviews a Palestinian honour guard on Monday upon his arrival at Mr. Arafat's Gaza headquarters (Reuters photo)

Saddam again exposes his opponents as split and weak

NICOSIA (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, who ordered his troops to help a Kurdish faction capture a key city in north Iraq, has again exploited the Iraqi opposition and shown it to be anything but a united force capable of ousting him.

The invitation for President Saddam to intervene in the internal fighting in the Kurdish-ruled region of northern Iraq by rebel leader Massoud Barzani caught every Baghdad watcher by surprise — not least Mr. Barzani's Kurd rival and Arab opposition factions.

Mr. Barzani's Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) of Jalal Talabani had been sharing power uneasily in northern Iraq since shortly after the 1991 Gulf war.

The two Kurdish factions are rivals who have shifted alliances between Iraq and Iran over the last three decades.

Intermittent fighting

the PUK started to get backing from Iran in the latest fighting — an allegation denied by Iran.

"Saddam has been able to exploit the divisions we always knew were there between the main Kurdish factions," said a Western diplomat in the Middle East.

President Saddam's willingness — and the ease with which his forces pushed into the Kurdish region — threw exiled opposition leaders into confusion and alarmed the Western powers protecting the Kurds and waiting for President Saddam's downfall.

"This operation was a clear message to the West and his own people — he's in charge of his military and he will confront any challenge to his authority," another diplomat said.

Iraqi opposition groups have in the past years grabbed world headlines for shedding some light on goings-on in Baghdad.

Their main weapon has been the fax machine and satellite telephone as they attempted to spread news of what they say is the resistance to President Saddam's iron-fist rule and his brutal counter measures — though many of their

reports were proved to be exaggerated.

Their ineffectiveness was apparent last year when two high-level officials defected to Jordan. The opposition groups grappled for months with how to deal with them, eventually giving President Saddam the chance to lure the defectors home and then execute them.

Arab and Western diplomats say in fact most opposition groups are united by only one thing — their hatred of the regime.

They differ on almost everything else: ideology, aspirations, and religion. And each has its own — very different — view of post-Saddam Iraq.

The dissidents include Muslim fundamentalists, Baathists, pro-Syrians, pro-Iranians, communists, liberals, democrats and secularists who are divided ethnically and religiously: Kurds, Shiites, Sunnis, Syrian-Christians and Turkomen.

Diplomats generally dismiss the groups because they are so fragmented. They believe any change in Baghdad has to come from the armed forces in the capital or from President Saddam's inner circle.

Before the Gulf war of

1991, when U.S.-led allies drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait, there were already 20 Iraqi opposition groups. That number rose to more than 100 in the months that followed with defections of military and political officials.

The groups have since formed coalitions and alliances to try to limit the fragmentation into various factions.

Excluding the Kurdish opposition, there are two main groups: the Iraqi National Congress (INC) and the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI).

The INC was formed in mid-1992 combining more than 30 opposition groups that included democrats, liberals, secularists and Kurds.

The SCIRI is an Iranian-backed coalition of six Shiite fundamentalist groups. It has its headquarters in Tehran and maintains an army of a few thousand deployed near the Iranian border with southern Iraq.

SCIRI, which calls for an Iranian-style Islamic state in Iraq, played a key role in a 1991 uprising in southern Iraq and, diplomats say, seems the only group capable of military action.

Baghdad accuses Ankara of double standard

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq on Monday accused Turkey of blatant hypocrisy by feeling free to crush its own Kurdish rebellion while criticising the Iraqi offensive into its Kurdish areas.

Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller on Sunday called on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to withdraw his forces "immediately" and said Ankara "will take diplomatic steps to bring this about."

But Iraq's official Al-Jumhuriyah newspaper accused Turkey of double standards.

"You allow yourselves to resort to force repeatedly against Turkish citizens, on the pretext that they threaten your security, while you deprive Iraq of its right to end the terrorism and the destruction led by Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) leader Jalal Talabani," Al-Jumhuriyah said.

In an open letter to Ms. Ciller, who it said had called for a dialogue between Baghdad and the Kurds, the newspaper asked Ankara "to begin a dialogue with the Turkish Kurds instead of resorting to force."

"Iraq has several times expressed its will to open a dialogue with the Kurds," the newspaper said.

Iraq said it had helped its ally the Kurdistan Democratic Party to capture the city of Erbil from the PUK on Saturday after accusing Iran of supporting the rival group.

Iraqi forces withdrew from Erbil overnight, according to U.N. and other officials, but U.S. military forces in the region remained on high alert, U.S. officials said.

22 Kurds killed in Turkey

Turkish troops killed 22 separatist Kurdish rebels in four recent clashes in southeastern Turkey, officials said Monday.

The clashes took place in the provinces of Sirnak, Van, Diyarbakir and Hakkari, a statement by the southeast's regional governorship said.

It did not mention the exact dates of the clashes, nor if there were any casualties among the security forces.

More than 20,000 people have been killed in violence in southeastern Turkey since 1984 when the Kurdish Labour Party launched its armed campaign for a Kurdish homeland.

Palestinian school year opens with lectures against Israel

RAMALLAH (AP) — In the first lesson of the new school year, Palestinian principal Khalil Hussein delivered an unforgetting message to his students on Israel's policies.

"Israel does not want peace and the uprising will be reborn again," Mr. Hussein told 130 students at the Dar Al Aloom elementary school in this West Bank city.

Such tough talk mirrors the current atmosphere of hostility and suspicion between Israel and the Palestinians.

The Palestinians see expansion of Jewish settlements as Israel's attempt to undermine Palestinian hopes for an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with East Jerusalem as their capital.

"Did you come to Jerusalem yesterday?" Mr. Hussein asked 6-year-old Jurir Daoud.

"No, there is an army," Daoud replied. "And?" prompted Mr.

Hussein. When the boy did not respond, the principal added: "It imprisons us and kills us."

Yasser Arafat's officials are warning that without progress in the peace talks by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Palestinians will resume the 1986-93 uprising against Israeli occupation.

Mr. Arafat ordered teachers all over the West Bank to open the school year with lectures against Israel's policies. He also implied Friday that if Israel did not speed up the pace of talks, a fresh revolt would erupt.

Graffiti dating from the uprising, left on an outside wall of the Dar Al Aloom school, promised bloody attacks against Israeli soldiers and Jewish settlers.

But many of the older students said they won't repeat the stone-throwing against Israeli soldiers that characterised

the uprising, when nearly 2,000 Palestinians, many of them teenagers, died in clashes with Israeli troops.

Seven out of 10 18-year-olds said they would not revolt even if told to do so by Mr. Arafat.

In a classroom adorned only with a picture of the Palestinian National Authority president, many students said they had lost faith in the leader of their autonomous government.

"The authority has done nothing for us," said Majdi Khatib. "Why should we fight for them?"

"If Arafat wants us to pray in Jerusalem, he should go there first and then all the people will follow him," said Rosa Hassan from the West Bank's village of Silwad near Ramallah.

"I know many activists in Ramallah and they are not planning attacks on Israelis," said Mohammad Khader.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05 Captain Planet
15:30 Hot Shots (Sports)
16:00 Bob Morrison Show
16:30 Comedy — ALF
17:00 News Flash
17:10 Sciences Cartoon
17:15 La Vie Devant Moi
17:30 Game Show — Pyramid
18:00 Varieties — Les Trans-musicales de Rennes
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Ushuaia
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Blossom
20:00 Documentary — Man Alive
20:30 Encounter
21:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
22:00 News in English
22:20 Mission Impossible
23:10 Sisters

PRAYER TIMES

04:13 Fajr
05:42 Sunrise/Dhuhr
12:42 Dhuhr
16:23 Asr
19:42 Maghrib
21:11 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church
Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel.

661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel.

622366.

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel.

771751.

Armenian International Church

Tel. 652526.

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical

Congregation Tel. 845457.

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.

654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.

675691.

The Evangelical Local Church

in Amman Tel. 811295.

English-speaking

Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures slightly below average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds

will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Amman 18/29

Aqaba 25/37

Deserts 17/24

Jordan Valley 23/36

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 30, Aqaba 37 Humidity

readings: Amman 46 per cent.

Aqaba 47 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Wisam Hazyayn 745563

Dr. Mukhlis Nazabrah 820425

Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyib 620115

Dr. Mundher Al Qraibi 779989

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Naiyroukh pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazin Abu Bakr 276852

Al Quds pharmacy 1

ZARQA:

Dr. Ziyad Jghalim 992991

Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Dept 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rese-

cue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111.

637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department

..... 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Com-

plaints 897467

Amman Municipality Com-

plaints 787111

Telephone Information (direc-

tory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs

661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority

..... 815615

Electric Power Company

636381

RJ Flight Information 08-

53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-

53200

Hussein Medical Centre

813813/32

Khalidi Maternity 644281/6

Akileh Maternity 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity

..... 642362

Malthas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Musasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

AJ-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital

602240/30

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart

and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/883323

Zarqa National Hospital

..... 09/900560

Ibn Sima Hospital 09/886732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital

..... 09/990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital

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Greek Catholic Hospital

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Ibn Al Nafies Hospital

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Minister of Education Munther Al Masri Monday meets with a Saudi delegation to discuss potential employment for 400 Jordanian female educators (Petra photo)

Saudi team holds talks on recruiting 400 female teachers

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Saudi Arabian education delegation Monday met with Minister of Education Munther Al Masri to discuss the projected employment of 400 female teachers for Saudi schools for the 1996-97 scholastic year.

Ministry sources said that the delegation was planning to engage the services of female teachers for posts at community colleges to train potential teachers and that other recruits will be placed in regular classes.

The Saudi delegation had met earlier with Minister of Higher Education Abdullah Ensour to recruit teachers for community colleges and placed public advertisements inviting eligible teachers wishing to work in Saudi Arabia to apply, sources said.

Dr. Masri welcomed the delegation and

maintained that the ministry will offer the Saudi officials the necessary facilities to engage the services of female teachers wishing to serve in Saudi Arabian schools.

The ministry will allow teachers to conclude contracts to work in Saudi Arabia only if they meet requirements set by the ministry which include, among other things, a two-year active service in the public school system that they might procure a two-year leave without pay to work in Saudi Arabia or other Gulf states, the sources added.

Another Saudi Arabian education delegation came to Jordan last month and concluded contracts with 2,500 male teachers who have already left for Saudi Arabia to take up their posts there.

Conference boasts participation of 200 specialists

RAMTHA (Petra) — Nearly 200 chemical engineers, teachers and researchers in the chemical industry in 14 Arab and foreign countries gathered at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) Monday for a three-day chemical engineering conference under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan.

JUST President Saad Hijazi deputised for Prince Hassan at the opening session and underlined the importance of the meeting for the chemical industry which is at the base of metallurgy, extraction of minerals and heavy industry.

He said that JUST was eager to offer training in the field of human resources, the employment of modern technology and in other research related fields as part of its contribution towards providing skilled workers in the development of national industry.

Khalil Halhouli, chairman of the committee which prepared the conference, organised by JUST in co-operation with the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA), said that reports to be reviewed at the meeting included those dealing with petrochemical industries, chemical industries like those of cement and fertilisers, bio-technology, electro-chemical engineering, fuel and energy, corrosion of metals and ways to protect the environment from contamination resulting from industrial waste.

JEA Vice President Husni Abu Ghaida outlined the development of chemical engineering in Jordan and said that the country currently has 2,150 registered chemical engineers who are contributing to the development of Jordanian industries.

Delegates taking part in the conference represent Arab countries as well as the United Kingdom, Germany, Poland and Japan.

Following the opening session Dr. Hijazi opened an exhibition of domestic chemical industrial products.

Tourism ministry to police industry pricing

By Christina Schlegel
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Akram Masarweh Monday told the Jordan Times that new regulations concerning price-setting, standards of hygiene for food and beverages, and other related issues for restaurants, hotels and motels will be launched in the near future.

"The draft has recently been studied by the cabinet," Mr. Masarweh stated, "and will hopefully be discussed soon."

The new regulations have been brought amidst increasing complaints regarding prices of accommodation and food which they consider to be exaggerated, he added.

A certified price list set by the ministry states the maximum allowed prices which restaurants and hotels may charge.

"The owners may decrease prices, but they are not entitled to raise

them," Mr. Masarweh explained.

The prices set by restaurants and hotels must comply with the ministry's price list, he added. "If they do not the owners are obliged to pay a fine in accordance with a penalty list issued by the ministry. The fine must match the severity of the violation."

He further stated that the ministry will convene with representatives from the hotel and restaurant sectors in two weeks time in order to discuss the matter

and reach an accord."

"The owners must list prices exterior to the restaurants to give their potential customers an idea of how much they might spend," Mr. Masarweh said and further stated that they will discuss standards of food and service rendered by such institutions.

During the meeting the participants will likewise discuss the establishment of an official classification of restaurants and hotels.

Bay'at Al Imam enters final phase of prosecution

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The State Security Court Monday heard closing arguments of the prosecution and defence teams in the case of a group known by their affiliated name Bay'at Al Imam (pledge of allegiance to the leader).

Seven of the thirteen defendants are charged with plotting to carry out extremist attacks in Jordan and illegal possession and manufacturing of explosive materials.

The remaining six, all freed on bail, are accused of distributing pamphlets slanderous to His Majesty King Hussein.

State Prosecutor Lieutenant Colonel Mahmoud Obeidat asked the court tribunal to indict all 13 men as charged.

The defence attorneys, however, demanded the acquittal of their clients, claiming pre-trial confessions were extracted under duress.

They also questioned the legality of the procedures taken by the security forces as well as the prosecutor upon arrest of their clients.

Recent court sessions proved that the 13 men were detained by security forces for five months before being transferred to the military prosecutor for questioning.

The defence team claimed that during these five months, their clients were interrogated under duress and forced into confessing.

"Any confessions from our clients were extracted while they were tortured, and the fact that they were kept in detention for such an extended period nullifies their confession, and we demand that they be declared innocent," the defence team insisted.

The attorneys also challenged the prosecution charges that their clients were distributing pamphlets slanderous to the King.

"The prosecution failed to provide any material

evidence or witnesses that our clients slandered King Hussein," the attorneys avowed in the courtroom.

At the end of the court session, the court tribunal decided to adjourn for the day and allow time for the last defence attorney to present his closing arguments.

The group believe themselves to be the only "true followers" of the Islamic faith, and do not attend mosques or religious institutions through their rejection of the entire system.

The maximum penalty for illegal possession of explosives is death.

Jerusalem Societies protest Israeli 'illegal actions'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jerusalem Societies in Jordan (JSJ) Monday issued an appeal to Arab and Islamic nations to rally to the side of Arabs in Jerusalem in their opposition to the Jewish onslaught on recognised holy places as well as their push to efface the Arab and Islamic character of the holy city.

The 15-member group issued a statement to various Arab governments, Palestinian leadership and sundry Arab and Islamic organisations that Israeli authorities have been demolishing homes belonging to Arabs and have recently earmarked 300 such homes for wreckage in Jerusalem.

"The Israeli bulldozers have been active in the Arab section of Jerusalem demolishing homes under the pretext that they were

constructed without proper authorisation. Recently the premises of a charity organisation were demolished simultaneously to Israeli preparations for creating thousands of homes for Jewish settlers on Arab land," said the statement.

"Last Friday Israeli forces prevented thousands of Muslims from worshipping at their holy shrines and stopped Christian worshippers trying to pray at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Arab Jerusalem on Sunday at a time when the Jewish groups have been allowed access into the square in front of Al Aqsa Mosque prior to admitting them into the shrine," added the statement.

Reports from Jerusalem said Israeli security forces had prevented Palestinian men from the West Bank to enter Arab East Jerusalem

on Friday in response to a call by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to stage a mass prayer.

President Arafat also called on Jerusalem Christians to flock to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Sunday and offer mass prayers in protest against Israeli policies. However, turnout for the Sunday prayers was as usual, according to reports.

The statement by the Jerusalem Societies called on the Palestinian National Authority to press for immediate debate on the status of Jerusalem in negotiations with the Israeli government and appealed to Arab and Islamic nations to extend material as well as moral assistance to the Arab citizens of Jerusalem in resisting Israel's illegal actions.

University opens conference to study industrial sector

AMMAN (Petra) — A conference regarding development of the industrial sector opened at the University of Jordan Monday and was attended by industrialists, scientists and officials from public and private sectors in Jordan with the participation of several Arab and other foreign nations.

"This three-day conference aims to discuss and tackle problems connected with the industrial sector in Jordan with a special emphasis on the engineering industry which has achieved a certain success over the past three decades," said Khaled Toukan, dean of the university's Department of Engineering and Technology.

He further stated that the participants will review weak points of the industrial sector as well as exploring prospects for projected benefits from industrial experiments in Norway, Taiwan, Australia and South Korea, the countries taking part in the conference.

University President Fawzi Gharaibeh addressed the opening session, stating that the conference takes place at

a turning point in Jordan's history in its endeavours to achieve industrial self-reliance.

"The world has been witnessing great strides in privatisation, economic globalisation, advanced technology, and industrial development, all of which prompt Jordan to exert serious efforts to become a partner in these processes and achieve progress," added Dr. Gharaibeh.

"In the light of regional developments at the economic level, Jordan faces new challenges and new opportunities for strategic economic development both of which we must utilise so that we can advance in the 21st century," added Dr. Gharaibeh. Representatives of the Royal Scientific Society and the Higher Council of Science and Technology organised the meeting in co-operation with the University of Jordan and said the meeting provided an opportunity for re-examination of the industrial sector as well as trends to facilitate its entrance into the global market.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* Iranian film "Behind the Fire" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.

SCIENCE WEEK

* Fourth Annual Science Week at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman at 9:00 a.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Works by Batoul Al Fakiki at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until Sept. 11.

* Works by artist Abeer Abu Joodih at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, until Sept. 5.

* "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Oct. 8.

Amnesty International calls for pardon in murder case

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Amnesty International (AI) has issued an appeal on behalf of Kayed Ahmad, who was sentenced to death by the Criminal Court on July 25 for the murder of a Salt native last year.

Mr. Ahmad was convicted of robbing, killing, and mutilating Mahmoud Ensour, 32, in Salt on Aug. 14.

According to judicial sources, Mr. Kayed's case is still being reviewed at the Court of Cassation.

In a recent statement faxed to the Jordan Times, the human rights group said it is urging that the death sentence imposed on Mr. Ahmad be commuted if, indeed, it receives ratification from the Court of Cassation.

AI called on the government to discontinue the death penalty in Jordan and urged human rights activists to appeal to His Majesty King Hussein and members of the government.

The group also expressed disappointment at the increase in the number of crimes now deemed punishable by

death, and at the steady increase in the number of executions carried out over the last three years, in the Kingdom.

Eight people were executed in the Kingdom in 1995. Seven people have already been put to death since the beginning of this year for various crimes.

Meanwhile the Court of Cassation last week referred the case of two defendant sentenced to death for the murder of a relative back to the Criminal Court for retrial, judicial sources said.

Obeid Abdul Ruhman Sheesh, 65, and his nephew Jamil Mahmoud Sheesh, 31, were sentenced to death by the Criminal Court on April 22, 1996, after receiving a guilty verdict for the premeditated murder of Amneh Mahmoud Abed, on Aug. 21, 1995 in the Nazzal neighbourhood of Amman.

In its ruling, the Criminal Court tribunal denied a plea of crime of honour, which the two defendants had claimed.

Furthermore, the court did not allow charges to be dropped to reduce the sentence "because of the heinous nature of the

crime." But last week, the Court of Cassation returned the case asking the Criminal Court for a retrial and to consider the family's right to drop charges, the sources said.

The sources told the Jordan Times Monday that the retrial date is expected to be set next week.

According to the prosecution, Amneh was married in the early 1950s in the West Bank with her father's approval but her relatives objected and she had been considered an outcast by most of them for nearly 45 years.

After the death of the victim's husband she asked one of her children to reunite her with her family.

On Aug. 21, 1995, one month after the victim was reunited with her family, the two defendants travelled from Madaba to Amman and lured the victim to a deserted area in Jabal Nazzal, the prosecution charged.

Jamil drew his gun and shot his aunt four times in the head and neck and subsequently turned himself into police claiming he had killed his aunt in a

crime of honour.

Man's body exhumed for further investigation

Meanwhile, the Criminal Court Prosecutor Monday ordered the buried body of a 39-year-old man, who initial reports indicated had drowned, to be exhumed for an autopsy, according to judicial sources.

The prosecutor's actions came following a complaint registered by the family of the deceased that their son, identified only as Khalid, might have been murdered by his wife when they travelled to Syria.

The victim had left the country with his wife for a visit to Syria in August. But on Aug. 17, 1996, he allegedly drowned and his body was sent to the Kingdom with a medical report indicating that drowning, indeed, was the cause of death, the source said.

If the autopsy proves that the man was murdered, the prosecutor intends to subpoena the victim's wife who remained in Syria following her husband's death.

JD 5,000 prize for research on political evolution

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A JD 5,000 annual prize, the Wasfi Tal Award, will be granted to the best research paper on the evolution of political thought in Jordan as of next year, former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali announced Sunday.

The award was named after Prime Minister Tal, who was assassinated in Cairo on Nov. 28, 1971 while attending an Arab League meeting. Speaking to reporters

during a press conference held at the Islamic Work Studies and Research Centre (IWSRC), Dr. Majali said this prize is meant to honour Wasfi Tal and at the same time it is dedicated to serving our country through encouraging scientific research and study.

"This will encourage individuals and institutes to become involved in solving the problems which face various scientifically-based sectors and to document the country's achievements," he said.

Dr. Majali stated that the prize award topics will vary each year "as long as they benefit the country."

Mr. Tal, remembered by many as a man possessed of a free and outspoken mind, was regarded as one of the great prime ministers in Jordan's history.

According to Dr. Majali, a board of trustees including intellectuals, politicians and government officials, was formed to examine the entries before determining the winner.

The board of trustees will be presided over by Dr. Majali. Former Prime

Minister Zeid Rifai is the deputy president.

In announcing the conditions of the contest, Dr. Majali explained that the topic should contribute new ideas regarding the proposed topic (the evolution of political thought in Jordan).

The research topic may not be submitted by individuals or institutes for another prize.

The deadline for submitting all entries is June 30, 1997. All applicants should deliver their work to the IWSRC by hand or certified mail.

Last Cali drug lord gives Colombia a 'gift' — himself

BOGOTA, Colombia (R) — Helmer 'El Pacho' Herrera, the last Cali Cartel drug kingpin still at large, surrendered to police in southwest Colombia Sunday in a gesture he described as "a gift" to the nation.

A national police spokesman said Mr. Herrera, a master of disguise and the target of a nationwide manhunt for more than a year, surrendered shortly after noon (1700 GMT) at a pre-arranged meeting place outside the southwestern city of Cali, where his criminal drug syndicate was based.

The police spokesman said Mr. Herrera, the object of a recent U.S. extradition request, had surrendered in the presence of National Police Director General Rosso Jose Serrano and other senior security force members.

Wearing a blue business suit and glasses and looking more like a successful bank executive than a dangerous

fugitive, Mr. Herrera told reporters shortly after his arrest that his surrender was "a gift."

"I believe in Colombian justice and its institutions," he said. "It was time to give the country a truce. This is a gift to the country that has suffered and been so stigmatised because of drug trafficking."

Six of the seven top leaders of the Cartel were arrested last summer in an unprecedented crackdown on what has often been described as the world's leading drug trafficking organisation. The 45-year-old Herrera, considered highly dangerous, was the only cartel heavyweight who remained at large.

A reported billionaire, Mr. Herrera recently rose to the No. 3 position within the cartel after the shooting death in March of Jose Santacruz Londono, his closest partner inside the drug organisation.

U.S. drug experts maintain that brothers Gilberto and Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela — the undisputed leaders of the Cali drug mob, arrested in June and Aug. 1995 — continue to run their criminal empire from inside Bogota's La Picota Prison.

But the experts had also been working on the assumption that Mr. Herrera was taking care of a lot of Cali business on the outside, and his arrest could deal a serious setback to the syndicate's daily operations.

President Ernesto Samper, who has been accused of using a fortune in Cali cartel narcotics money to finance his 1994 election campaign, has denied that drug lords are able to continue operating from inside any Colombian jail.

In brief remarks to reporters in Bogota, he said the Cali cartel was now "finished" and the country had

closed the book on one of its most notorious criminal gangs.

"He (Herrera) was the only person from the Cali cartel's leadership who hadn't been submitted to justice," Mr. Samper said.

U.S. Ambassador Myles Frechette also welcomed Mr. Herrera's arrest, saying the United States was "delighted that the unrelenting pressure of the Colombian police" had finally made it happen.

That pressure included nearly 400 raids on apartments, farms, houses and business linked to Mr. Herrera during a manhunt that began 16 months ago, a police statement said late Sunday.

"Pacho was the last of the Cali kingpins still at large," Mr. Frechette said in a statement. "The United States government is gratified by his arrest."

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno formally requested the extradition of the Rodriguez Orejuelas, Herrera and Juan Carlos Ramirez Abadia, a cartel enforcer, in June.

The government has refused to act on the extradition requests, arguing that to do so would violate a ban on extradition written into Colombia's constitution in 1991.

Legislation introduced under Mr. Samper's predecessor, Cesar Gaviria, offers substantial sentence reductions to drug lords who turn themselves in and confess to their crimes.

That legislation, known as the "law of submission," is expected to be rewritten in the current session of Congress to ensure tougher sentences for drug traffickers. It could still benefit Mr. Herrera, however, since government sources say the new legislation would not take effect retroactively.



Cali cartel drug kingpin Helmer 'El Pacho' Herrera arrives to surrender to authorities on Sept. 1. Mr. Herrera was the only Cali kingpin still at large, authorities said (Reuters photo)

Dole blasts Clinton on Iraq, Mideast

WASHINGTON (R) — Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole Sunday assailed President Bill Clinton's Middle East policy, faulting weak leadership on Iraq, meddling in Israel and "moral confusion" about state-sponsored terror.

In a pair of Washington speeches before the U.S. National Guard Association and the Jewish service group, B'nai B'rith, Sen. Dole accused Mr. Clinton of a "failure of American leadership" in confronting Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Saddam Hussein has been testing American leadership and found it lacking," Sen. Dole said of Iraqi attacks this weekend in Kurdish areas of northern Iraq.

He faulted Mr. Clinton for relegating Iraqi affairs to "low level" officials and said it was no surprise that Saddam Hussein has "ignored those barely audible" U.S. warnings.

Sen. Dole recalled that he objected, but Mr. Clinton "acquiesced" when the United Nations last May decided to relax some sanctions and allowed some Iraqi oil sales.

"We don't need to analyse Saddam's actions. We need to condemn Saddam's actions and do it very strongly," said Sen. Dole.

Mr. Clinton's spokesman Mike McCurry said that the president has been on the phone with other world leaders about the events in northern Iraq, where troops have apparently intervened in fighting between Kurdish factions.

Sen. Dole, though acknowledging Mr. Clinton's "basic goodwill" toward Israel, told B'nai B'rith that he and running mate Jack Kemp could "work more smoothly" with the new Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of the conservative Likud Party.

"The Dole administration will find it easy to harmonise our policies with those of Mr. Netanyahu," he said, adding that he would

not "pre-empt Israel's sovereign right" to its own national security policies or push for Israel to return the Golan Heights to Syria.

Alluding to Mr. Clinton's clear preference for Mr. Netanyahu's Labour Party opponents in the recent elections, Sen. Dole accused the president of meddling inappropriately in internal Israeli politics.

"The Clinton administration's intervention in Israel's recent election was harmful — and embarrassing — for America," said Sen. Dole, who referred to the Nazi holocaust and his past as a soldier wounded in World War II.

The former Senate Republican leader also lambasted Mr. Clinton's policy on Iran, Syria and Libya, which he called "terrorist states." He said it was wrong to focus on the "root cause" of terrorism when the goal should be winning it out.

"We cannot have an effective policy against terrorism if our leaders are lost in moral

confusion," he declared, adding that in a Dole administration, "There will be no more mixed signals to states that sponsor terrorism."

In both speeches, Sen. Dole also dwelled on his anti-drug stance, a centerpiece of his campaign since a survey about 10 days ago showed illegal drug use among teenagers had gone up since President Bill Clinton took office.

Sen. Dole pledged that if he is elected president, he would restore National Guard funding for anti-drug programmes to 1993 levels of \$230 million from the current \$158 million and develop ways of using the Guard along the southwest border with Mexico.

Noting that much of the marijuana on U.S. streets was now grown domestically, Sen. Dole said he would use the Guard's intelligence capacities to find the fields and send a message to growers. "If you're growing this trash — beware. You'll be whacked, snacked and jailed!"



Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole shows a game given to him by the Air National Guard Major General John France on Sept. 1, during Sen. Dole's address to the National Guard (Reuters photo)

Homefolk cheer Clinton on his 'last go-round'

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — Buoyed by a nostalgic Arkansas sendoff, President Bill Clinton returned to the campaign trail Monday with Labour Day rallies in the midwest election swing state of Wisconsin.

In a speech to about 3,000 friends and supporters at the Old State House, where he launched his first bid for the White House in 1991, Mr. Clinton called his battle with Republican challenger Bob Dole "our last go-round, with the highest stakes for the largest number of people."

"The kind of country we'll be at the dawn of the new century and a new millennium will be determined by this election," he said after asking his Arkansas allies to help him win reelection.

The mood of the Little Rock sendoff rally was buoyant because of a variety of signs that Mr. Clinton, 50, is headed for victory — perhaps by a substantial margin — in his contest with Sen. Dole on Nov. 5.

His aides were elated by "October-size" crowds that turned out last week as Mr. Clinton campaigned by train and bus before and after the Chicago Democratic Convention. "A good sign," Vice President Al Gore said after a post-convention trip with Mr. Clinton through Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee.

The Clinton camp was further heartened by an array of polls showing Mr. Clinton leading Sen. Dole by as much as 21 percentage points in spite of a convention-week "speed hump" — alleged sex-and-security indiscretions that forced the resignation of Dick Morris, Mr. Clinton's top political adviser.



President of Mexico Ernesto Zedillo waves as he arrives to give his address at the legislative palace Sunday during the second 'Informe' or state of the nation address. Mr. Zedillo condemned the violence by the new leftist guerrilla and pledged to fight it with the full weight of the State (Reuters photo)

Mexico's Zedillo condemns rebels

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico's President Ernesto Zedillo, delivering Sunday his second state of the nation address, condemned political violence by a new leftist rebel force as "terrorism" and pledged to fight it with "the full force of the state."

"We Mexicans do not accept the appearance of bloody and outdated uprisings that attempt to close the path to democracy and ... to impose their intolerant will on the country," President Zedillo said at the San Lazaro Legislative Palace in Mexico City.

"We do not accept the appearance of groups that use terrorism to murder and destroy and cause fear."

President Zedillo, his voice breaking with emotion as he spoke, received a standing ovation from legislators.

"We will pursue every terrorist act ... We will act with the full force of the state," he said.

President Zedillo ploughed through his speech despite a bizarre protest by an opposition lawmaker who donned a mask of a pig's head at the foot of the podium where he was speaking.

Marco Rascon of the opposition leftist Democratic Revolution Party (PRD) held up placards criticising the government, although one read simply: "Oink oink oink oink."

Television viewers watching the live speech were spared the spectacle as cameras remained trained on a clearly annoyed President Zedillo. Sen. Rascon's party leaders later expressed embarrassment.

Across town up to 3,000 people took part in a peaceful "alternative address" while President Zedillo spoke.

Gathered at the landmark Angel of Independence Monument on the central Reforma Boulevard, the protesters condemned President Zedillo's economic policies for not doing enough for the poor.

Participants included debtors' groups, a representative of the fledgling civil arm of Mexico's Zapatista rebels and peasant farmers from Oaxaca and Guerrero states.

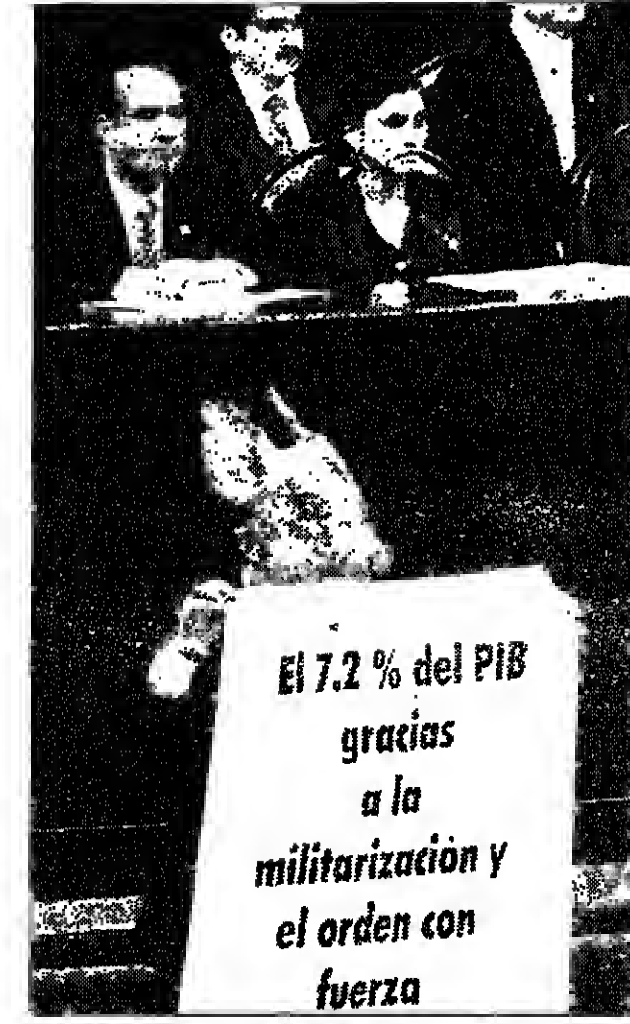
President Zedillo pledged that security forces would respect the law as they hunt down the rebels of the Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR), which launched attacks on Aug. 28 in several states in which at least 14 people died.

Perot slams main parties in 'informercial'

DALLAS (R) — Billionaire businessman Ross Perot, running far behind his rivals in all presidential campaign polls, urged voters Sunday to abandon the two main parties he said have bankrupted the country.

Turning to the half-hour "informercials" that were the trademark of his 1992 campaign for the White House, Mr. Perot, nominee of the Reform Party that he founded and largely financed from his personal funds, accused Democrats and Republicans of running up a huge government debt and selling out to special interest groups.

"In plain talk, we are bankrupt," Mr. Perot said during the 30-minute televised campaign ad broadcast on ABC.



Leftist PRD senator Marcos Rascon wears a pigs head mask as he unveils one of a series of protest posters saying "7.2 % of the GDP thanks to militarization and order by force" during President of Mexico Ernesto Zedillo's address to the chamber of senators Sunday (Reuters photo)

The EPR was not linked to the Zapatistas, who were in peace talks with the government.

At least two more people died in sporadic clashes Friday and Saturday as police and army forces hunted the EPR rebels in the states of Michoacan and Oaxaca. There were no reports of incidents Sunday.

"Those who take recourse to violence seek to promote repression," President Zedillo said. "The government will not be provoked in that way."

Officials say the EPR, which made its first appearance just two months ago in the southern state of Guerrero, is a hardline Marxist-inspired rebel force with no popular support. The EPR accused the government of using murder, torture and political oppression to maintain a corrupt regime.

President Zedillo said political reforms, including a pact between all four main parties to overhaul electoral laws, meant Mexico was on the way to a fully functioning democracy in which political violence was invalid.

The country's justice system and police forces were in need of deep reform before they could win the respect and trust of the Mexican people, he added, though he pledged to battle corruption.

He also called for renewed efforts to find a negotiated solution to the 32-month-old Zapatista uprising in the southern state of Chiapas.

President Zedillo, who took office on Dec. 1, 1994, for a six-year term, within weeks found himself battling the collapse of the peso and an ensuing deep recession. He declared Mexico's economic "emergency" over, saying the economy was clearly on the road to recovery.

He projected economic growth next year of at least four per cent and said growth rates in the following years would be higher. Inflation unleashed by the peso crisis was increasingly under control, he said.

He said his government would maintain fiscal and monetary discipline and the free-floating exchange rate of the peso.

Police arrest woman for picking flower

COWES, England (AFP) — A civilian police watchdog was investigating Monday whether officers overreacted in arresting, fingerprinting and interrogating a young woman for picking a flower in a garden in back of a pub. Two police officers in this town on the Isle of Wight drove Claire Bowles, 21, 10 kilometres to the police station, booked her, jailed her and questioned her for an hour-and-a-half on July 29 after they saw her pick a red carnation from a pub garden, according to press reports. Brian Drake, a local councillor who is also chairman of the island's Police and Community Liaison Committee and a member of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police Authority, said he would seek a full inquiry. On the face of it, he said, the police reaction appeared to be "over the top," and a poor use of police time. "There are serious problems in Cowes and this is not one of them," he said. "I would have thought a ticking-off would have been better than carting somebody off to a police cell." Ms. Bowles said she was finally released with an official warning, but was left with a police record. "There were lovely red blooms and I picked one to smell," she was quoted as saying. "All of a sudden two police officers came marching towards me. One grabbed me by the arm and told me I was under arrest. 'I thought it was a joke. You would think they would have something better to do. They said it was time I grew up and that picking a flower was a serious offence. I had to sit in a cell with dried blood on the walls.' Inspector Mark Bell of the Isle of Wight Police said Ms. Bowles was interviewed for three minutes, not an hour-and-a-half. He said a lawyer was present at her request, and that the officers had seen her "intentionally uproot flowers and throw them on the ground."

Indian group up in arms against Miss World

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A Muslim women's group Monday urged Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda to shelve the Miss World contest, due to be held in the southern city of Bangalore in November. "This dirty show will injure the modesty of Indian women," the Bangalore-based Muslim Women's Welfare Organisation said in an open letter to Mr. Deve Gowda. It urged the prime minister to ensure that the "nude and shameful show" was not held in India. The appeal came three days after a militant Indian farmers' leader called for "direct action" against the proposed pageant, being held in the country for the first time. Another women's group in Bangalore has threatened to stage "suicide attacks" to sabotage the show, organised by the Amitabh Bachchan Corp. Ltd. Miss World contest was first held in 1951 when it moved to Sun City in South Africa. Indian model Aishwarya Rai won the Miss World title in 1994, the same year Sushmita Sen was crowned Miss Universe.

Chinese child held for burglary

HONG KONG (AFP) — A 10-year-old boy who entered Hong Kong illegally from China was arrested here Monday on suspicion of burglary, a police spokesman said. The boy, who entered Hong Kong from neighbouring Shenzhen with a friend hidden in a container truck, was arrested when he was seen near two flats which had been burgled. His friend and alleged accomplice escaped. A total of \$5,570 worth of property was reported stolen from the flats.

Police arrest
man for picking
flower

WES, England
A civilian police
was investigating
whether the
prosecution
was correct in
arresting a young
man for picking a
flower in back of
a police officer in
the Isle of Wight.
The police officer
said the man was
arrested for picking
a flower in back of
a police officer in
the Isle of Wight.
The police officer
said the man was
arrested for picking
a flower in back of
a police officer in
the Isle of Wight.

Indian police
arrests against

Chinese
for

Chinese

World News



Thousands of Filipinos stage a rally supporting the peace pact between the Philippine government and Muslim rebels in Manila Monday. The peace pact was signed inside the presidential palace in a glittering ceremony ending 24 years of war that killed more than 125,000 people in the southern Philippines (Reuters photo)

Protests as Manila, Muslim rebels sign peace pact

MANILA (AFP) — The Philippine government and separatist Muslim rebels signed a historic peace treaty ending 24 years of civil war Monday, but faced immediate opposition from Christian protesters and hardline Islamic guerrillas.

Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) Chairman Nur Misuari, chief government negotiator Manuel Yan and observers from the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) signed the agreement at the presidential palace.

President Fidel Ramos, a former general in the campaign against the guerrillas, embraced his old enemy Mr. Misuari after the signing.

However, both sides admitted it will take years for people in the main southern island of Mindanao to taste the fruits of the accord after a conflict which has killed 120,000 since 1972.

The agreement creates an MNLF-led council to oversee development projects in 14 Muslim-populated, but predominantly Christian provinces in Mindanao, whose infrastructure is 20 years behind the rest of the country.

The South Philippines Council for Peace and Development will last until 1998, when a referendum will be held to determine which among the 14 provinces under its banner will join an autonomous Muslim region.

"The root causes that led to this decades-old conflict will not go away just because we have signed this agreement," Mr. Ramos warned at the ceremony.

"The more complex and arduous task of peace and development has just begun," he said.

Mr. Misuari, 55, described the situation in Mindanao as "volatile."

"The most fundamental problem that we face is how we establish peace," he said, in an apparent reference to the presence of extremist Muslim groups



Philippine President Fidel Ramos (centre) grins while watching Muslim rebel chief Nur Misuari (right) exchange signed peace agreement documents with Philippine government peace negotiator Manuel Yan during ceremonies at the presidential palace in Manila Monday (Reuters photo)

that have been left out of the agreement and dozens of armed gangs engaged in kidnappings and robberies.

In a sign of possible trouble to come, angry Christian demonstrators paraded with mock coffins and flew Philippine flags at half-mast in the key southern cities of Iligan and Zamboanga.

About 4,000 residents of Iligan, in Mindanao, took part in a protest rally.

Pro-government billboards set up beside major streets to celebrate the treaty were defaced overnight, and anti peace-pact posters put up.

In Zamboanga, a major Christian-Muslim city and nerve centre of the military's Southern Command, scores of cars and other vehicles formed a noisy motorcade behind two mock coffins symbolising the "death of democracy" in the region.

Iligan City Council member Lawrence Cruz said: "Here in Iligan, there is only mourning, cries of sorrow not joy. Look at our flag. It is at half mast. Symbol of

mourning because democracy has died."

A hardline Muslim rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), vowed to continue its struggle for self-rule.

Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice-chairman for political affairs, predicted his group would recruit disaffected MNLF fighters.

"We do not accept the peace agreement," Mr. Jaafar told AFP, saying it would not change the situation in Mindanao.

Since the MNLF has agreed to cooperate with the government, it means the "only legitimate revolutionary group in Mindanao is the MILF," he said.

The radicals are threatening to step into the breach left by Mr. Misuari, who will run as governor of an existing four-province Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) later this month as part of the peace programme.

The main Philippines' leftist group, the New Nationalist Alliance, also condemned the accord, accusing

Mr. Misuari of being co-opted by the government and of "betraying the (Muslim) people's struggle for self-determination."

Mr. Misuari himself complained the agreement was faulty because it did not give police powers to the MNLF to deal with lawless groups.

He said the MNLF will cooperate with government troops, "but don't expect us to be in the frontlines because we will not be wielding any arms."

Only 7,500 of the estimated 20,000 MNLF fighters will be integrated into the armed forces and the police while the rest will be disarmed under the terms of the agreement.

On an international level, the agreement was hailed by Japan, Malaysia and Australia as a boost for stability in South East Asia.

But as the peace was sealed, the military announced that a guerrilla from the MNLF splinter group Abu Sayyaf and his wife were killed in a raid by Marines at the weekend.

Chernomyrdin welcomes chechen deal — lebed aide

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin views the peace plans for breakaway Chechnya brokered by security chief Alexander Lebed as successful, Gen. Lebed's office said in a statement Monday.

The statement, released after a meeting between Gen. Lebed and Mr. Chernomyrdin, said the prime minister was satisfied that a peace agreement signed Saturday did not differ fundamentally from an earlier draft document.

The statement said Mr. Chernomyrdin was ready to participate in further efforts to regulate the situation in the republic.

Noting that both sides had agreed not to use force, the statement said the peace plan was creating the preconditions for the formation of a transitional coalition government in Chechnya, where separatists seek full independence from Russia.

"All this, as was already stressed at the meeting, points to an optimistic forecast for the future," it said.

Gen. Lebed, who returned at the weekend from signing the deal with separatist leaders, has yet to win approval for the agreement from Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said last week that Mr. Yeltsin had approved Gen. Lebed's draft proposals.

But amendments were made during negotiations with rebel Chief-of-Staff Aslan Maskhadov and Mr. Chernomyrdin said Sunday he needed to discuss the accord again with Gen. Lebed.

The amended deal defers a final decision on Chechen claims for independence for five years and commits Moscow to pulling out the troops sent to crush a secession bid in December 1994.

It also sets up a joint commission to oversee economic reconstruction and the withdrawal of troops.

A spokesman said Mr. Yeltsin also wanted an account of the latest accord. But aides could not say if the president would meet Gen. Lebed.

Gen. Lebed, 46, chosen by Mr. Yeltsin as his security chief in June after he took a strong third place in the first round of Russia's presidential election, has sometimes seemed out on a limb during his Chechnya negotiations.

But Kremlin spokesman Sergei Yastrebnsky told Russian Television that Mr. Yeltsin had "normal, working, businesslike" relations with Gen. Lebed.

Analysts have also speculated that Gen. Lebed and Mr. Chernomyrdin have been wrangling over Chechnya to further their own careers if something happens to Mr. Yeltsin and elections are held early.

The situation in Chechnya

has been calm since an initial deal was signed and most Russian forces and rebel units have now left the capital Grozny, the scene of heavy fighting last month.

ITAR-TASS news agency said the separatists had installed their own regional commanders in several towns, ousting leaders installed there by the Russian-backed administration of Doku Zavgayev.

Mr. Zavgayev, who is re-elected by the separatists as a Moscow puppet, told TASS he expected to play an important role in a future coalition government.

A host of problems remain as both Gen. Lebed and the rebels try to convince hardliners in their own camps that it is a good deal.

"This wound will keep bleeding for a fairly long time," former Russian acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar told Russian Television. "The scars of such a war are hard to heal."

Separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev said the agreement was "a serious step towards peace" but warned of a danger coming from "the party of war" — those in the Russian establishment who want to continue the 21-month conflict.

His assertion that his side had made no concessions — "We are an independent state," he told reporters — was unlikely to help Gen. Lebed to convince sceptics

in Moscow.

Mr. Yandarbiyev also insisted all Russian troops be withdrawn.

Moscow has in the past said it would remove all those based "temporarily" in Chechnya, leaving its "permanent" garrison.

Meanwhile, Interfax News Agency reported the Russian military accusing Chechen rebels Monday of failing to respect the withdrawal deadline for demilitarising Grozny.

"The deadline for demilitarisation of the city has been violated by the separatists," a spokesman for the military said.

Under a ceasefire ending almost 21 months of war, both sides are to leave Grozny, which was captured earlier this month by the separatist rebels, except for small joint patrols to keep order in the city.

"There are about 1,000 armed men in the city who apparently have nothing to do with the joint patrols," the spokesman said.

However, he was quoted as saying that the joint patrols would check for the alleged groups of fighters and if the reports were unfounded, Russian troops would continue their withdrawal from Grozny.

He also said that prisoner exchanges, agreed to in the ceasefire, "have virtually stopped."

Japanese warships visit S. Korean

PUSAN, South Korea (R) — Waving their white caps in greeting, South Korean sailors Monday welcomed into port the first Japanese warships to visit since World War II, signalling warmer ties between the two Asian adversaries.

The 4,050-tonne training ship Kashima and 2,950-tonne destroyer Sawayuki docked to the strains of a Japanese brass band playing When The Saints Come Marching In.

Their goodwill visit to the southern port of Pusan would have been unthinkable just a few months ago when South Korean fighter jets were conducting mock attacks over a group of islands claimed by both Seoul and Tokyo.

Anti-Japanese protesters were kept well away from the Pusan Port by riot police.

About 20 demonstrators, mostly elderly men, were held back as they tried to mob a black limousine whisking Japanese officers into town. "Go home, stay away," they shouted.

The visit was made possible by a meeting in June between Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and South Korean President Kim Young-Sam.

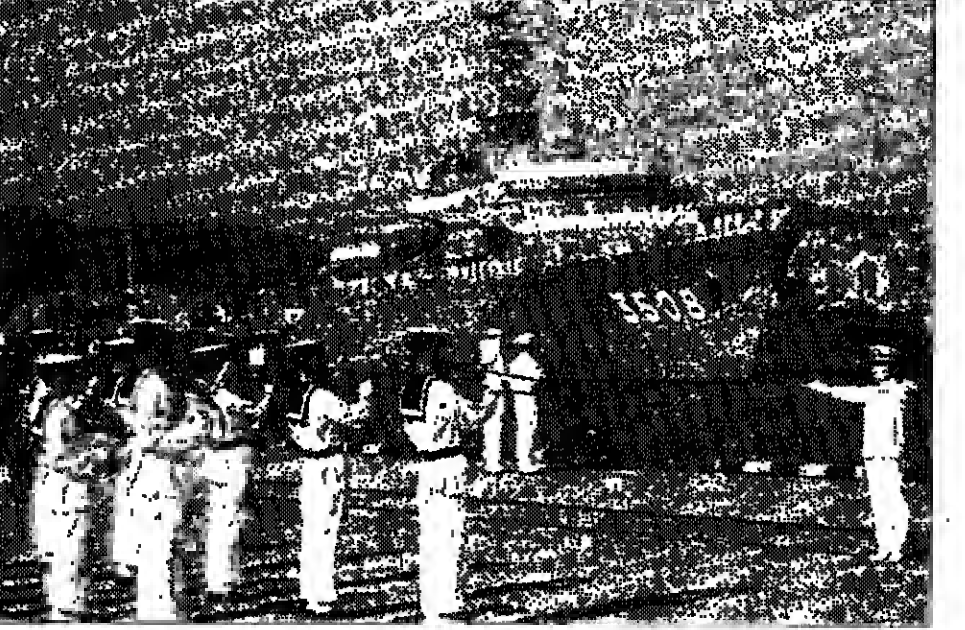
They agreed to bury centuries of enmity to prepare for the joint hosting of the 2002 soccer World Cup.

In what was dubbed the "soccer summit," Mr. Hashimoto said he apologised "from the bottom of my heart" for one of the darkest episodes in Japan's 1910-45 colonial occupation of Korea — the sexual enslavement of thousands of Korean women and girls in Japanese military brothels.

Monday's ceremonies were relatively low-key — officially, the visit returns a similar courtesy call to Japan by the South Korean Navy in 1994.

About 100 Korean sailors standing in formation at the dockside removed their caps and waved as tugs manoeuvred the vessels to their moorings. Sailors lining the decks of the Japanese ships returned the gesture.

The ships are carrying 500 officers and enlisted sailors.



A South Korean Navy brass band plays a welcoming song as the Japanese Navy ship Kashima prepares to dock in the port of Pusan Monday. This is the first visit by a Japanese Navy ship in South Korea since the end of World War II, which marked the end of Japan's colonisation of Korea (Reuters photo)

'Condemned' loyalist's parents house bombed

BELFAST (R) — The home of the parents of a Pro-British Northern Ireland "loyalist" ordered to leave the country by his former associates was bombed early Monday, police said.

They said a device was thrown into the home of the parents of Alex Kerr, an associate of Billy Wright, a controversial Protestant militant who faces a death threat from loyalist militants for opposing their ceasefire strategy.

Police said Mr. Kerr's parents were treated for shock but escaped serious injury when the device exploded in the living room of their home on the outskirts of Belfast.

Mr. Kerr himself is in jail facing charges connected to an attempted show of strength by armed loyalists, so called because of their unwavering allegiance to the British crown and opposition to Catholics who want Ireland reunited.

He and Mr. Wright were ordered to leave Northern Ireland by the Combined Loyalist Military Command (CLMC), the umbrella group for loyalist militia fighting to maintain British rule.

The attack highlighted tensions in the Loyalist movement over a 23-month ceasefire they called to get their political spokesmen involved in Northern Ireland peace talks.

Mr. Wright, known as "king rat" to his supporters, is reported to be the commander of the mid-Ulster branch of Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) guerrillas, which killed 900 Catholics in a 25-year war to avenge attacks by Irish Republican

Army (IRA) units.

He has survived six assassination attempts by the IRA, which wants an end to British rule, and has served one jail term for security offences but has never been imprisoned for membership of the outlawed UVF.

Mr. Wright opposes the CLMC's strategy of maintaining a ceasefire and is suspicious of the peace talks because of the involvement of the Irish government.

He was given until midnight Saturday to leave Northern Ireland but says he has no plans to quit his home

and claims widespread support in the Portadown area south of Belfast.

David Trimble, leader of the province's most powerful mainstream Protestant party, has called for mediation to end the dispute, which threatens to lead to the expulsion of the UVF's political spokesmen from the peace talks.

Mr. Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, said at the weekend that an attack on Mr. Wright would infringe the principles of non-violence which all parties to the peace talks have to espouse to take part.



Leading loyalist Billy Wright watches a protestant Royal Black Preceptory march in his home town on Aug. 31. Mr. Wright is defying a warning issued by loyalist extremists who gave him a 72 hour deadline to leave Northern Ireland (Reuters photo)

French and Russian cosmonauts return

MOSCOW (R) — France's first woman in space and two Russian cosmonauts returned to earth Monday and officials said their mission to the orbiting Mir station had been successful.

A mission control spokeswoman said the capsule with Claudie Andre-Deshays, Yuri Usachev and Yuri Onufrienko had landed at 11.41 a.m. (0741 GMT) in Steppeland some 110 kilometres south west of the planned new Kazakh capital Akmol.

"The cosmonauts are in good condition... They have left the capsule... and greeted ground specialists with smiles," she said.

Andre-Deshays spent 16 days aboard Mir carrying out biological and medical experiments. Usachev and Onufrienko have been on Mir since February.

A French space agency spokesman said officials were satisfied with Ms. Andre-Deshays' mission. "She worked well," he said, adding that the cosmonaut would now undergo post-flight medical tests near Moscow.

Russians Valery Korzun, Alexander Kalery and U.S. astronaut Shannon Lucid are still aboard Mir, although Lucid, on her first mission to Mir, will leave this month aboard a U.S. shuttle.

In Paris, the daily Le Monde quoted French Junior Space Minister Francois Fillon as saying an agreement was signed in Moscow Monday for a French astronaut to spend four months aboard Mir in 1999.

France's Post, Telecommunications and Space Ministry had no immediate comment on the report.

Mr. Fillon spoke in Moscow before heading to greet Andre-Deshays on her return to Earth.

Yeltsin takes medical tests, needs rest, agency says

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, dogged by health scares, has had a series of medical tests and a course of "preventative" treatment and needs rest, ITAR-TASS quoted a highly-placed Kremlin source as saying Monday.

The agency gave no details about the tests or what treatment the president, who has been on holiday outside Moscow for the last week, had undergone.

The Kremlin has been repeatedly forced to deny that Mr. Yeltsin, who suffered two minor heart attacks last year, is ill again.

But the president, 65, has more or less disappeared from the public eye since late June. He made an appearance on Aug. 9 at his inauguration for a second term in office and has been seen a couple of times on television.

TASS quoted the source as

saying that Mr. Yeltsin felt "alright" and that the main thing for him was to rest.

Mr. Yeltsin's aides have insisted the president is simply worn out after a gruelling reelection campaign and needs to rest.

TASS quoted the Kremlin source as saying Mr. Yeltsin would continue his vacation and that he had no plans to leave the Moscow region.

The source said Mr. Yeltsin was closely following developments in breakaway Chechnya, where security chief Alexander Lebed signed a peace deal early Saturday which he said ended the 20-month war.

Mr. Yeltsin has appointed Gen. Lebed as his special envoy to the region with vast but unspecified powers to end the war. To the surprise of many, Mr. Yeltsin has so far failed to meet Gen. Lebed, fuelling the rumours he is too ill to handle affairs of state.

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Ball in Israeli court

THE FATE of the third Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference scheduled to take place in Egypt next November appears to hang in the balance in light of the rising tension between the Israelis and the Palestinians. With the redeployment of the Israeli army in Hebron still on hold, in clear violation of the Oslo and Cairo agreements, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to expand Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, the tension between the two sides has reached a new high, threatening in the process to derail the entire peace effort.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, whose country is to host the MENA conference, sounded the alarm over the deteriorating political climate when on Sunday he issued a clear warning that the economic meeting may not be held if Israel persists in pursuing its foot-dragging tactics. "It is unthinkable to conceive that the economic conference will take place before a withdrawal from Hebron," Mr. Musa said at a joint news conference at the end of the official visit by Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy to Cairo. "We cannot speak of regional cooperation when the peace process is paralysed," he added.

With this Egyptian warning, the Israelis are being served with a clear notice that the high hopes pinned on all the MENA conferences could be dashed should there be no rapid movement on the Palestinian track. The Israeli government should heed the Cairo warning because it reflects other Arab and Islamic views as well. The prime minister, Abdul Karim Kabariti, said as much after he concluded a meeting with President Yasser Arafat several days ago when he declared that Jordan continues to believe in the Egyptian leadership of the peace effort on the Arab side.

With this in mind, we just hope that the impending Netanyahu-Arafat encounter, which is expected to take place soon, would succeed in untying the knots that have precluded a real and genuine movement on the Palestinian front. We hear that marathon, behind-closed-doors meetings are being held between Israelis and Palestinians to draw a framework for the upcoming meeting between the Israeli and Palestinian leaders. Note is also duly taken of reports that new agreements in principle are being ironed out between the two parties on several issues including Hebron. But what is even more important than breakthroughs brought about by pressures is a genuine change of heart on the part of Netanyahu about the Palestinian people and their political and economic rights. There is not much sense in arriving at intermediate solutions or even final ones for that matter if the new Israeli government has to be squeezed and arm twisted at every juncture. Above all it is the attitude and state of mind of the Netanyahu team towards the Palestinians and all Arabs in fact that call for a thorough reconsideration. If Netanyahu cannot deal positively and constructively with the Palestinian people and their established leadership, whom Israeli President Ezer Weizman has rightly called "Israel's neighbours," then there is little hope of establishing a climate of true peace in the region. Former Israeli Foreign Minister Ahia Eban may have summed up the situation correctly when he concluded in a recent article that the elderly Weizman is thinking and acting much younger than the younger in age Netanyahu. We therefore look forward to the planned meetings between Israeli and Palestinian leaders and hope that Netanyahu and his team would give the peace process a new impetus that would rekindle hope in such meetings as the MENA conference.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al-Dustour attacked the Likud-led government in Israel describing its actions and its policies vis-a-vis the Palestinians and the Syrians as reflecting arrogance and emboldening Jordan which signed a peace treaty with the Jewish state. Farid Anani said by disregarding the agreements with the Palestinian leadership and refusing to exchange occupied Syrian lands with peace, Benjamin Netanyahu is harming Jordan's reputation in the Arab World making the Kingdom to look as if it is mediating between Israel and the other Arab parties. Israel should be made to realise that Amman's peace treaty with Tel Aviv will not survive at the expense of the Kingdom's ties with the Arab countries and the Arabs ought to prove to Israel that its betting on Arab weakness was a blunder, and the writer noted that the Arab countries show solidarity in the face of Israel's threats against the Palestinians, the Syrians and the Lebanese, added the writer, but ought also stand united in the face of U.S. threats against Iraq because we can by no means accept any war on Arab or Islamic countries.

A WRITER for Al-Rai daily said that the peace accord signed by Russia and the leaders of Chechnya is expected to put a final end to the conflict that lasted 20 months and cost the two sides heavy losses in life. But the struggle of the Chechen people has not gone unrewarded, because the end of conflict will give them a new hope and a breathing space to rebuild their country and prepare for autonomy rule first pending a referendum on independence by the year 2001, said Mahmoud Rintavi. The writer said that two factors helped the Chechen people's struggle to attain success: One was their steadfastness and heroic struggle for freedom, and the other was the domestic situation in Russia, which prompted the leadership in Moscow to abandon its futile conflict against the Chechen people and the mediation of General Alexander Lebed in order to turn its attention to combating wide-spread crime and acts of terrorism.

The View from Fourth Circle

Learning from Karak and the world:
Social equity as a national economic goal

By Rami G. Khouri

IT WAS more than a mere coincidence that the recent violence in Karak and other towns in southern Jordan was followed soon after by the announcement of substantial new measures by the government to promote economic growth and revise some antiquated laws related to the manufacturing, financial and export sectors. The government also said that it would adopt a more rigorous policy of meeting social needs throughout the country, especially in the field of health care.

This emphasises a problem that has been apparent in Jordan for many years, and that substantially explains why we have suffered another round of rioting in the wake of price increases. The problem is the government's glaring lack of a coherent, long-term national economic policy that targets human needs and skills, along with equitable income distribution, as core values and goals. Given this absence of strategic planning, recent governments have tended to exaggerate the importance of promoting private sector business, while not sufficiently addressing the human needs of a population suffering from disequilibrium between growing financial wealth and worsening social disparities.

I am not saying that the Jordanian economy or government are failures or are doomed to chronic mediocrity. To the contrary, Jordan has been a model of Third World development in many ways. But its past policies are no longer valid today. We now stand at a pivotal juncture requiring tough decisions that we always avoided in the past, when we floated happily on the support and cash of our friends around the world.

The rioting of 1996 marked a loss of innocence for Jordan; it made us realise that we are, in fact, not quite as special or distinct as we thought we were. We are a typical Third World country, facing serious economic challenges in a context of rapid socio-political change and existential environmental threats.

The violence in the south was yet another warning sign that the surface calm of Jordan hides an underlying tension in many people's lives that reflects serious socio-economic vulnerabilities. We must repeatedly ask ourselves: Why do we suffer growing fears and some expressions of despair at family and community levels, while our economy registers sustained and high annual growth levels of nearly six percent a year? Is our country getting richer or poorer? Are we developing or regressing?

I have found many of the answers to these questions in two important documents that have been published recently by United Nations agencies: the 1996 Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme, and a report published last year by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, entitled *States of Disarray: The Social Effects of Globalisation*. Both of these reports document and assess global trends that are very relevant to our situation in Jordan, and that our senior government officials should read carefully.

The *States of Disarray* report makes the fundamental point that the globalisation of economy and culture have brought about social tensions that governments and communities have not tackled head-on, causing us "to pay a heavy price for putting social issues in abeyance."

The report documents six trends that have shaped institutional change around the world: The spread of liberal democracy, the dominance of market forces, the integra-

tion of the global economy, the transformation of production systems and labour markets, the speed of technological change, and the media revolution and consumerism. These forces have impacted on virtually every country in the world, often in economies that were undergoing severe structural adjustment in order to maintain solvency and a capacity to remain in the global economic system. Severe economic adjustment triggered polarisation of societies into rich and poor, while governments, the private sector and non-governmental organisations proved incapable of meeting the needs of a growing poor class that suffered political and social alienation.

The globalisation of our era, primarily meaning the worldwide extension of market forces, the report notes, has disrupted many communities, contributing to several negative trends. These include: The forced domestic and international migration of millions of people seeking a better life; the criminalisation of aspects of domestic and international life as a means of survival for people unable to find employment and meaningful family relationships in traditional community systems; the growth of the global drugs business into a \$500 billion a year industry, which corrupts public and private institutions in the North and South alike with its own brand of systemic violence; the sometimes violent and divisive resort to religion, ethnicity and other primordial identities by people who feel dislocated by economic modernisation and cultural globalisation; a breakdown in family relations due to a lack of opportunities to maintain cohesive family values; growing control of the global economy by transnational corporations that "remain largely untouched by any form of international regulation"; and active attempts by states and multinational organisations to rebuild war-torn societies. The report notes that "the processes of fragmentation that have weakened the state have also affected communities: migration, urbanisation, and mass media exposure to a global consumer culture have undermined local capacity to respond cohesively to changing circumstances."

While these trends can be clearly identified at the global level, many of them are also obvious in Jordan. The question remains: Are we sufficiently aware of what is happening to our society, and do we have a coherent, sustained strategy to promote our national well-being in such volatile global circumstances? My feeling is that our steady economic growth and expansion in social services in recent decades has camouflaged two negatives that we must deal with today: The lack of sustainability in most of our economic policies (especially foreign aid dependence and water extraction rates), and the lack of focus on meeting human needs as the vital element in equitable economic growth.

The UNDP's Human Development Report for 1996 highlights this important aspect of economic growth strategies, noting that economic growth often does not translate into improvements in people's lives. It says that "policy-makers are often mesmerised by the quantity of growth. They need to be more concerned with its structure and quality."

The UNDP report outlines five kinds of lopsided and flawed economic growth that should be avoided, because they give people less, not more. These are: "Jobless growth" that sees a rise in gross domestic product but not a parallel increase in new jobs; "ruthless growth" that

mostly benefits the rich and marginalises an increasingly large class of poor people; "voiceless growth" where economic expansion is not matched by political participation, democratisation or individual empowerment; "rootless growth", in which economic expansion is paralleled by a withering of people's cultural identities; and "futureless growth", in which economic growth consumes natural resources (water, green areas, arable land, etc.) that should otherwise remain as the foundation for future economic health.

A sober and dispassionate assessment of the Jordanian economy would suggest that we suffer from some aspects of all five of these kinds of distorted and flawed growth; at the same time, we continue to grow in real terms every year, and the material well-being of most Jordanians seems to be expanding. So what is going on?

I suggest that what is going on is precisely what is being documented in these two valuable U.N. reports: Our economic policies are promoting adjustment and growth that initially benefit the private business community more than other sectors of society, while locking large numbers of citizens into a state of either chronic poverty or lower middle class vulnerability. We pay back our foreign debts, but at the cost of having to send the army into Karak.

The main reason for this dilemma, I would suggest, is that we worship the unproven assumption that macro-economic growth will lead to better quality of life for ordinary people throughout the country. In fact, experience indicates that this is not the case, unless we make the deliberate effort to target social equity, poverty alleviation, and employment generation as indicators of economic performance as important as, say, GDP growth or the deficit in the public budget. The UNDP report notes that a World Bank study of 192 countries indicates that some two-thirds of economic growth can be attributed to human and social capital, rather than to natural resources or capital goods. Is this a meaningful finding that should be taken up more rigorously by Jordanian policy-makers, or merely a universal truism that we Jordanians can ignore because we are somehow different and special?

The impressive experience of the Asian Tigers, the fast-growing economies of the Pacific rim, is worth studying. Their success is largely related to the fact that they each identified a clear, long-term economic strategy that sought to improve the well-being of people, they communicated that strategy clearly to their people, they articulated the primacy of economic gains over political liberalisation in the short term, and they pursued their goals with diligence. Their experience highlights the importance of pursuing economic growth through a strategy whose central policy objectives explicitly target people and their productive capacities, employment, and social and income equity.

Our lack of such a clear policy is both a political and an economic shortcoming. It results in social ills and occasional political turbulence, as we saw in southern Jordan last month, and have seen around the entire world in the last several decades. If we try to tackle our new problems with old approaches, and disregard the cumulative human experience of the entire world as headed to us by these U.N. agencies, we would merely be adding intellectual stubbornness to constraints that already plague aspects of our economic policy-making.

Turkey's links with Iran
are no cause for panic

By Philip Robins

OXFORD, England — The recent visit by Turkey's new Islamist prime minister, Necmettin Erbakan, to Iran and the signing of a \$20 billion gas deal have fired a range of emotions in Washington, from anxiety to anger. I just takes, the words "Islamism" and "Iran," it seems, for sober analysis to be automatically jeered.

Already there is talk of a response, with everything from expressions of disapproval to economic sanctions against Ankara being mentioned. But before the United States is tempted into any form of action that might jeopardise the West's long-standing relationship with a trusted ally, let's put the issue in context.

First, since Mr. Erbakan's Welfare Party emerged as the largest single party in Turkey's general election in December, he has leaned over backwards to be accommodated to the political establishment at home and to Turkey's traditional friends abroad. Although he has been in power only since July 8, the restrained nature of the coalition government has been nowhere clearer than in the realm of foreign affairs. On two key issues, Turkey's military accord with Israel and the renewal of the mandate for Operation Comfort — which provides for the protection of the Iraqi Kurds — Mr. Erbakan has dropped his well-publicised reserva-

tions and opted for continuity in policy.

Second, Mr. Erbakan's visit to Iran was just part of a wider tour that has seen him fly to Pakistan, Malaysia and Indonesia. This has not been a tour of pariah nations but a swing through a series of important regional states, middle powers much like Turkey. The fact that they are all predominantly Muslim allows the new Turkish prime minister a rare gesture — and it can be little more than that — to the Islamic constituency at home, which is seeking signs of what it considers a more balanced approach to foreign policy.

Third, the signing of the gas deal with Iran was neither unexpected, nor does it spell the emergence of a strategic relationship with Tehran. In fact the two countries clinched the deal in principle well over a year ago, under the leadership of the strongly pro-American Tansu Ciller. It is true that the timing of the deal's conclusion was unfortunate, coming so soon after the U.S. Congress adopted legislation seeking to deter investment in the Iranian energy sector.

If anything, the agreement indicates less a new hierarchy of friends than Turkey's need for a rapid and large-scale expansion of energy imports over the next 15 years. In order to diversify its gas supplies away from a worrying over-dependence on Russia, Ankara is not cultivating just Iran. Liquid natural gas is already being

imported from Algeria, and negotiations are continuing with Nigeria. Qatar and Turkmenistan. Iran has the commercial virtue of being closer and hence cheaper.

But the Erbakan journey to Tehran is not just about trade. It is also the latest chapter in Turkish attempts to stabilise relations with a large and potentially troublesome neighbour. Two years ago, while President Suleyman Demirel was paying his respects in Tehran, an authoritative Turkish columnist described Mr. Demirel as enjoying "a warm relationship" with his Iranian counterpart, President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

This consistently high level of engagement with Iran can be explained by Turkish security concerns, as well as by the desire to use economic interdependence as a way of promoting more stable, cooperative relations. Ankara has frequently claimed that it has suffered more than most at the hands of the Iranians: Kurdish insurgents operating in Turkey are widely believed to have used Iranian territory for their activities, and Iran has been accused of training and supporting Islamist terrorists in Turkey.

Because of the proximity of Iran, the porous nature of the Turkish-Iranian border and the need to contain the latent competition between the two over everything from influence in Central Asia to the future of Iraq, Turkey does not have the option of refusing to have anything to do with Iran. Even under

the leadership of pro-Western, secular politicians, Turkey has followed the path of accommodation with Iran.

Ironically, because of his Islamist background, Mr. Erbakan might stand a better chance of stabilising the mercurial relationship between the two than his Kemalist predecessors. If the United States was really thinking deeply about the stability of a trusted ally, it might actually welcome such an engagement.

Perhaps the West in general and the United States in particular should relax a little about Mr. Erbakan. We should by all means judge him by his actions, but let us view those actions in the context of his overall policy approach, and against the actions of secular, pro-Western Turkish politicians in the recent past. We should not take developments like the gas deal out of context and distort their meaning.

And here's a real clincher: The Turks are a proud and sensitive lot who do not take well to foreign interference. Selective criticism of Mr. Erbakan by Washington will help ensure that in Turkey's next general election, the vote for his Welfare Party will be higher than it otherwise would have been.

The writer is a lecturer in Middle East politics at the University of Oxford and is the author of "Turkey and the Middle East." The article is reprinted from the *International Herald Tribune*.

LETTERS

Wreckless bus drivers

To the Editor:

I HEARTILY endorse everything Bob Robertson says about road accidents and how to curb them (letters, Jordan Times Aug. 18).

IT IS indeed remarkable how the standard of driving differs immensely with the drivers of our buses, large Public Service buses and the mini-buses. Most if not all of the tour-bus drivers are excellent, knowing that they are mainly in charge of foreigners. (What price are Jordanian lives?) The large Public Service bus drivers can't speed because their vehicles are not capable, so they are more careful and I even saw one get up from his seat to help a lame old lady both in and out of his bus last week. However many of them swerve to stop when picking up passengers, without signalling.

The mini-bus drivers are a breed of their own! Most drive at breakneck speed, start with a jerk before passengers sit down, jerk the gears and put people off their balance if they are still standing up, ram the brakes on so that everyone has to hold tight to the seat in front, and weave dangerously in and out of the traffic so that one holds on for dear life.

Last Wednesday the driver of mini-bus registered with number 5787 arrived at Seventh Circle with another one and then proceeded to have a race with it, laughing and waving his arms until Eighth Circle when the other bus had to stop to let passengers off. He was then busy talking and joking with his friend who was in the front passenger seat, lighting a cigarette while careering down the steep winding hill from Bayader to Wadi Seer, having just charged through the traffic lights at green to pull up with a screech of brakes, to let somebody off. I asked him to slow down, but he and his friend and the young man who took fares all laughed and carried on just the same.

I was nearly de-seated three times, shot forward each time the brakes were slammed on, and leaned sideways on every bend. In Wadi Seer the driver took a different turn right in the one way system as the big bus in front of him was going too slowly. He tore round the corner and I told him we were not in a race, but again the three men all laughed. The driver then swung round the new roundabout at the terminal instead of letting me off first, and came to another screeching halt, whereupon I took his number and gave it immediately to a policeman who just happened to approach at the right time. I hope he did the necessary. The bus itself had sounded very old and worn, and seemed ready for an overhaul, or better still a permanent rest! This is only one example, although I could quote many more, including some of the drivers on the Abdali-Deir Alla run...

Do we wait until there are more hideous accidents before something is actually done? Every day one sees young men in their late teens and early twenties screeching round corners in their cars as if they were in a Formula One race. It is high time this situation was remedied. It is time for more action and less talk.

Chris Larter
Amman



PRINCE HAMZEH GETS HIS WINGS: His Majesty King Hussein, in a ceremony attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor at the Royal Palace in Aqaba, on Monday presents His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh with his wings. Prince Hamzeh is now qualified to fly helicopters (Petra photo)

Iraqi army leaves Erbil

(Continued from page 1)

John Shalikashvili was in Egypt, a key Arab partner in the coalition that drove Iraq out of Kuwait in 1991, for talks with Egyptian officials.

Washington has vowed to respond — militarily or diplomatically — to the Iraqi offensive, and earlier Monday the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff held talks with Saudi and Jordanian leaders.

President Bill Clinton has dispatched unspecified reinforcements to the Gulf region and talked by telephone with a number of Arab leaders.

Despite the reports of an Iraqi pullout and uncertainty over Saddam's intentions, the attack on an area outside Iraqi government control since the Gulf war had continuing repercussions.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, saying he was "very much concerned about the deterioration" announced on Sunday, said he was delaying the start of an oil-for-food deal with Baghdad. Crude oil prices rose sharply in Asian trading on Monday in reaction.

Oil had been expected to start flowing onto world markets in September. Turkish officials, hoping to resume the trade blocked since 1990, said Ankara would appeal to the United Nations and its Western allies to prevent any delay.

The plan would let Iraq

sell \$2 billion of oil over six months to buy humanitarian supplies to ease suffering from sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

White House spokesman McCurry said: "there is no justification for the military action Saddam Hussein has taken...The United States believes that he cannot conduct himself with impunity, that there should be consequences."

With the U.S. presidential election only two months away, Republican candidate Bob Dole said on Sunday that "Saddam Hussein has been testing American leadership and found it lacking."

Washington said U.N. Security Council resolutions approved after the 1991 Gulf war gave a legal basis for responding, but officials admitted President Saddam had the right to move troops within that part of his own country.

Jalal Talabani, leader of the PUK told the AP that the Iraqi leader must be made to pay for his attack on Erbil.

"Saddam Hussein must be punished and must pay the price of the crimes which he committed inside Erbil," Mr. Talabani said. The PUK said 450 Iraqi tanks took part in the offensive Saturday, adding that 30,000 Iraqi forces had massed in recent days in preparation for the attack.

There have been no accu-

rate casualty figures. But the PUK said in a statement sent to the AP by fax that "scores" of people were killed in the fighting.

The PUK also claimed Sunday that Iraqi forces "summarily executed" 96 members of the INC at a base near Erbil. On Monday, it said additional "hundreds" of suspected members of the PUK and other anti-Saddam groups had been rounded up and their fate was unknown.

Before they left, Iraqi troops conducted house-to-house searches in apparent pursuit of anti-Iraq activists, said Gisper Nielsen, of the U.N. guard contingency in Iraq stationed in Erbil.

But the KDP said Monday that all PUK fighters would be "pardoned... provided they present themselves to the authorities."

KDP spokesman Sami Abdul Rahman said his party had no choice but to seek Iraq's help after Iran sent troops into northern Iraq to support the rival PUK.

"Our rival has sided with Iran," Mr. Abdul Rahman told reporters. "Iranian troops had been attacking our positions."

Mr. Abdul Rahman criticised Washington for passiveness, saying "the United States did not fulfill its duty as a strong hand to end the attacks by the PUK against us."

Some 2,000 Iraqi Kurds

tried to storm U.N. offices in the Kurdish town of Sulaimaniyah on Monday during a protest to demand allied intervention against President Saddam. U.N. sources said.

The demonstrators hurled through an exterior fence around the offices and, when they were stopped by guards, hurled stones at the buildings breaking windows and causing other damage, a U.N. source said, quoting witnesses.

Nobody was hurt in the incident, the source added. Sulaimaniyah is the last remaining PUK stronghold in northern Iraq.

The U.N. Security Council was set to renew sanctions against Baghdad, but Washington's partners are unlikely to approve any U.N. action to punish Iraq for its Kurdish offensive, diplomats said.

Security Council diplomats ruled out an emergency council meeting Monday, which is a public holiday in the United States.

But they said that the situation was likely to be discussed when the council meets on Tuesday for its regular two-month review of the international sanctions on Iraq.

Western diplomats said that the Americans could argue that Iraq's offensive into northern Iraq constituted a violation of the safe haven set up by the Gulf war allied powers.

So you're a human being: Isn't that special?

Nathan Myhrvold

SO FAR, popular reaction to NASA's announcement that its scientists have discovered evidence of life in a meteorite from Mars has been pretty positive. But that may change as the implications sink in. The announcement is the biggest insult to the human species in almost 500 years, step two in a three-step process that will leave humanity totally humbled.

Ptolemy (2nd century) was the first and boldest in a long succession of spin doctors for the primacy of human beings. The whole universe, he postulated, rotated around us, with the Earth sitting at the centre of heaven itself. Any marketing consultant will tell you that positioning is everything, and centre-of-the-universe is hard to beat.

Copernicus (1473-1543) rudely pointed out: Sorry, Earthlings. We spin around the sun, not vice versa. Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) built a telescope and used it to spit in the soup even more. The authorities of the time sought the only rational solution: they decided to burn Galileo alive if he didn't recant. Eventually he did.

Galileo's crime was to undermine the uniqueness of our planet, and by doing so, to threaten the intellectual security of the religious dictatorships of his day. Over time, advances in astronomy have relentlessly reinforced the utter insignificance of Earth on a celestial scale. Fortunately, political and religious leaders

stopped barbecuing astronomers for saying so, turning their spits with human-rights activists instead.

But the hubris that makes us insist on a special role for humans and Earth didn't disappear. Among the sciences, biology became its refuge. Consciously or not, mainstream opinion in biol-

Earth isn't special. The alien life-forms aren't special either. Instead of highly logical humanoids with pointy ears or other endearing characteristics, they seem to be a lot like simple bacteria. Life on Earth was special because it was the only life we knew. In this case, however, the dogma being shattered is based

there may be life on other planets — if you call that life. But humans are still the only intelligent life — right? The wagons will circle to defend this last bastion of human conceit. Technology is only just beginning to let us search the skies for the clues another civilisation might offer. People who speculate on the odds can be either upbeat or quite discouraging, depending on what ax they have to grind. But, as with life on Mars, until you take a look, how confident can you be one way or another? Maybe it's true that we're the only members of the big-brain club, but I'll lay my bets with E.T.

There's a consolation prize for humanity, though. What greater intellectual puzzle can there be than dealing with nature on its own terms? Wallowing in a solipsistic world dictated by our own hubris isn't much of a challenge in comparison. Mankind is not special by virtue of our address in the universe, or what spins around us or because life originated here. Slowly but surely, we've been compelled to renounce the comfort of these beliefs. Our true distinction is the intellectual journey that brought us to this understanding.

Nathan Myhrvold is group vice president and chief strategic daydreamer at Microsoft. This essay is excerpted from an article originally published in Slate magazine. Slate is a trademark of Microsoft Corp. Copyright 1996.

Microbes from Mars are the latest evidence that we're not at the centre of the universe

ogy has orbited around the essential mystery of life on Earth just as surely as the Ptolemaic view was lodged in the firmament. Only a few brave scientists violated the taboo and speculated on life beyond Earth. And the fictional extraterrestrials of Star Trek or a hundred other space operas are less alien than many of my neighbours.

Alien stories that are claimed as true are no better. Why Earth would be such a fascinating place for UFOs to visit is left unexplained. Inevitably, the UFO stories climax in the ultimate tribute to human ego. The aliens, it seems, have travelled umpteen billion kilometres so they can abduct us from our beds and have sex with us. I'm told that once you try a human, you never go back.

The NASA discovery suggests that life is probably a pretty ordinary phenomenon that occurs anywhere you give it half a chance.

fundamentally on ignorance. Biology has rested precariously on a single data point — life on Earth.

We got a second data point with the Mars meteorite. Over the past 20 years, researchers have found fossils similar to those in the meteorite in some of the oldest rock on Earth. Archeobacteria are single-cell organisms that live in the places you'd least expect. They inhabit the near boiling water of geysers in Yellowstone and the even hotter water in volcanic vents on the ocean floor. They are in oil wells and the crevices of basalt deep within the Earth. Perhaps we surface-dwelling life-forms are the exceptions — bizarre mutations of the normally deep-dwelling archeobacteria that populate the interiors of planets all over the galaxy. The inside of Mars may still be full of them.

We can anticipate the next frontier of hubris. Sure,

Jordan will not permit any anti-Iraq operations

(Continued from page 1)

in the north as an "internal Iraqi affair."

"We are of course on the borders of Iraq, but we are not involved and we will not be involved" in the affairs of Iraq, he declared.

The possibility of deploying an American air force unit in Jordan was apparently raised after a U.S. "air expeditionary force" (AEF) of 30 F-15s and F-16s and four air refuelling planes stayed in the Kingdom for two months.

The AEF flew reconnaissance flights over southern Iraq between April 12 and June 28 but used Saudi airspace to enter Iraq. They also staged joint exercises with Jordanian pilots inside the Kingdom's airspace.

It was the first time that Jordan allowed the deployment of American fighter planes in its territory.

Pressed by foreign reporters on the issue, Dr. Muasher said the number of American planes in Jordan now was "zero" and described the April-June deployment as "different" from allowing military operations against Iraq.

The deployment, he said, "was not a military operation."

Syria: Israel blocking peace process

(Continued from page 1)

everyone, but assuredly the main loser will be Israel," he added.

He reaffirmed Syrian readiness to resume talks with Mr. Netanyahu's administration, but only on the condition that talks pick up where they left off last February.

Mr. Sbaraa will meet his French counterpart Hervé de Charette on Tuesday.

The visit comes while relations between the two countries are enjoying a particularly good phase, after a number of trips to the Middle East in recent months by Mr. De Charette, including a visit to Damascus in July.

Fired from his diocese, 'virtual bishop' reaches out by Internet

By Mort Rosenblum
Associated Press

PARIS — The Pope took away Jacques Gaillot's flock, but fate gave him a Macintosh. No longer a rural bishop, he is monsignor to the masses, championing the downtrodden with a worldwide reach via the Internet.

"I don't know much about this electronic business, but it seems to work," said Gaillot, who as a 60-year-old politically active priest still likes noisy street marches and living with squatters. "Maybe this will help."

He offered a technological tally of who has approached his "virtual diocese" on the information superhighway. In just the first six weeks of 1996, his web site had a quarter-million "hits."

The number of interactive readers now soars. From Sydney to Sitka, he is consulted on everything from poignant spiritual dilemmas to matters better left to an advice columnist.

Gaillot, still a Roman Catholic Bishop, plans to be among the prelates welcoming Pope Jean Paul II to France on Sept. 19. He does not expect overwhelming warmth. The Vatican declines any comment.

"I miss my parishioners, but now I can address people everywhere," he said, irony playing across the soft features of a round, gentle face. "I must remember to thank the Holy Father."

In January 1995, Gaillot was fired from his post as bishop of Evreux, a diocese of 550,000 Catholics northwest of Paris, an area that includes desperate ghettos of Arab and African immigrants.

No explanation was given, but the hierarchy apparently had enough of Gaillot's outspoken and much-publicised stands against French policies on immigrants, the homeless and others known as "the excluded."

Gaillot also defends homosexuality, supports marriage for priests and speaks out on other matters that he says involve indi-

vidual choice rather than religious doctrine.

Reaction was lively, and mixed. Thousands thronged the majestic Evreux Cathedral for Gaillot's last mass, a day that he remembers as the most moving of his life. Polls said two-thirds of French Catholics opposed the dismissal.

But many traditional-minded Catholics declare themselves outraged at unorthodox views that some call apostasy.

"Many strangers wish me well, but you cannot imagine the looks I still get in the street," Gaillot said, with a touch of rue. "If eyes were pistols, I'd be dead."

Having removed him from Evreux, the Vatican had to find Gaillot what it calls a titular see. Bishops, ordained by God, cannot be stricken from the rolls unless excommunicated. They need a diocese, even if it is a symbolic one.

The answer was the "diocese of Parthenia," a no-longer-existent territory somewhere in the dunes of southern Algeria that ceased to be a real place inhabited by Catholics in the 5th century.

Soon, a political philosopher and Internet whiz named Leo Scheer offered Gaillot an idea: If Parthenia was nowhere, then it was also everywhere. If he had no pulpit, he could have a home page.

Anyone who taps out "http://www.Parthenia.fr" calls up the face that France knows so well: Laugh wrinkles, gold wire-rimmed glasses, sparse panels of graying hair flanking a shiny bald pate.

A map shows a patch of Sahara. Users can download the bishop's latest book, "Friends of Parthenia," in French or English. A newsletter reports on little-known and lost causes.

In a defence of the German theologian Eugen Drewermann, Gaillot echoes his own main theme: "He allows people who are disappointed with the church, or are far away from it, to be free to speak."

All E-mail gets an answer, hunted and pecked by Gaillot's own index finger.

"I spend hours a day at it," the bishop said at the single room where he lives and works.

The tidy room, above the less tidy office of Parthenia 2000, is decorated only with the icon of a Black Madonna, a gift from priests at Evreux, and a small stylised crucifix.

Mostly, he is out on the street or in the metro.

When 300 illegal African immigrants spent two months camped in a church demanding visas, he went to visit almost every day and then joined the vigil of sympathisers who stood guard out front.

He is a fixture at protests for housing and human rights, a slight, short figure in basic black. He favours T-shirts and turtlenecks. Sometimes a discreet silver cross rides on his lapel.

Gaillot is unsure where he stands with Rome. He receives a bishop's salary, if no expense money. Last December, he had a friendly but frank chat with the Pope, which brought neither a new post nor a reprimand.

At a recent funeral in Algeria for a bishop murdered by Islamic militants, the senior cardinal simply avoided him. "He just didn't see me," Gaillot said, with another of those ironic twinkles.

When he is not talking into the mobile phone pressed to his ear, the bishop of Parthenia is questioning, encouraging, or plotting. Often, he is surrounded by a crowd of ecumenical admirers.

During a tumultuous demonstration to support Africans in the Paris suburb of Montreuil, an elderly Arab in a tie and a Muslim skullcap approached a reporter.

"Where can I find Monsignor Gaillot?" he asked eagerly. "I just want to shake his hand."

Not long after, yet another well-wisher shook Gaillot's hand cybernetically. The virtual bishop found a message on his screen from an admirer in Sioux Falls, South Dakota: "Stay strong, brother."

Between 30 and 50 face charges for southern riots

(Continued from page 1)

charges of direct involvement in the riots.

The officials emphasised that if any journalist was to be sent to court it would not be "because of anything to do with their profession as journalists but for their direct role in instigating or taking a direct part in the

riots."

Meanwhile, Nazih Ammarin, a deputy from the southern town of Karak where the unrest erupted on Aug. 16, formally submitted his resignation from the legislature to the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament. S'ad Hayel Al Srouf.

According to Dr. Ammarin, he was prompted

to resign because of what he asserted was unacceptable language used by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti in a telephone conversation during the riots.

The full Lower House, whose extraordinary term was terminated on Aug. 16 immediately after the riots erupted, is expected to consider Dr. Ammarin's resig-

nation when the legislature resumes its regular session in October or November.

Meanwhile arrangements were being made for members of the Public Freedoms Committee of the Lower House to visit the detainees held in connection with the unrest. The visit was expected to take place on Tuesday.

Jordan expects Ciller visit to boost bilateral ties

(Continued from page 1)

play in the water sector" in the region, but "there are no specifics at this stage, at least not in a detailed manner."

The minister noted that the issue of water and water-sharing was being discussed in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process and said that while details had not been worked out "it does not mean that nothing will happen."

"We do expect Turkey to play a very important role in that sector," he added.

Turkey has abundant supply of water and has offered to export it to the Arabs as well as Israel through pipelines or other similar means. But, given the boycott of the multilateral discussions by Syria, Turkey's immediate neighbour, the issue has not made much headway.

Mrs. Ciller's visit will be the first to Jordan by a Turkish foreign minister in nearly three years.

Dr. Muasher said a visit to Jordan by the foreign minister of Turkey was supposed to have taken place more than a month ago but

political developments that saw changes in government in Ankara had forced a postponement of the trip.

Mrs. Ciller, a former prime minister of Turkey, became foreign minister in a coalition government her True Path Party formed with the Islamist Welfare Party in early July.

Details of her planned talks here were not available.

His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti are expected to hold talks with Mrs.

Ciller. Diplomatic sources said the impasses in the Middle East peace process and means to revive Arab-Israeli peace negotiations were expected to be figure high in the discussions. The situation in Iraq, which borders both Jordan and Turkey, is another key issue, they said.

"There are so many things happening in the region," noted a diplomat. "One never knows what could specifically come up at any point in time."

Hariri romps to victory in elections

(Continued from page 1)

Minister Saeb Salam — also won seats in the 128-member parliament.

lost their seats to Mr. Hariri's list. They were Mohammed Benjawli of the Shiite Muslim Hizbollah, Zuheir Obeidi of the Sunni

fundamentalist Jamaa Islamiyah, and Adnan Trabulsi of the Sunni Association of the Islamic Charitable Activities.

Voter turnout in Beirut — the third round in Lebanon's region-by-region polling — stood at 31 per cent. Interior Minis-

ter Michel Murr announced.

A private Lebanese watchdog group meanwhile denounced the "high level" of infractions and irregularities reported in the Beirut elections.

The Lebanese Association for the Democracy of Elections (LADE), an independent group established

in March to monitor the elections, said its monitors reported hundreds of violations including buying votes for government candidates.

"LADE denounces the continuing high level of infraction and irregularities and intervention in the election process," the group said in a statement.

Ministry finalising fresh incentives to owners of taxis and trucks

By PAVIVEKANAND
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Owners of taxis and service taxis will be allowed to dispose of their old vehicles and keep the proceeds to themselves instead of surrendering them to the Customs Department while they replace the vehicles with customs exemption under proposals drawn up by the Ministry of Transport.

The proposals also include one-year exemption from registration fees for new trucks imported into Jordan and a separation of registration between truck engine-cabins and trailers, said the minister of transport, Nasser Lawzi.

When implemented, the measures will be a dramatic boost to the transport sector, particularly in improving the quality of the taxis and service taxis on Jordan's roads and in replacing the Kingdom's ageing fleet of trucks, the minister told the Jordan Times.

These measures are the latest in a programme implemented by the Ministry of Transport to improve the quality of the hardware in the transport sector in view of the increase in the number of foreign visitors to the country and an expected demand for heavy trucks linked to increased trade activities.

Under existing arrangements, owners of taxis and service cars have to turn in

their old vehicles to the Customs Department to qualify for exemption from customs duties on replacements.

Mr. Lawzi said Monday he had already sent related amendments to the pertinent law to the Prime Ministry.

"We hope to enact the amendment this month so that these measures could be implemented as soon as possible," Mr. Lawzi said, noting that a "development committee" of the Cabinet had to study the proposals and then submit it to the full Council of Ministers with recommendations.

Several hundred taxis have been replaced since the beginning of the year after the government offered customs exemption for new vehicles if the old ones were surrendered to the Customs Department. The department in turn is selling them off, mostly as scrap.

"We believe that allowing the owners to dispose of their vehicles and keep the proceeds for themselves is a strong incentive for them to replace their taxis and service taxis," said Mr. Lawzi, noting that in many cases owners of old vehicles were unable to afford new ones even with the customs exemption.

"With the fresh proposal, they will have some additional funds to procure new vehicles," he pointed out. The minister said "the

deteriorating" quality of Jordanian trucks was an issue of "serious concern" to the government and this was behind the move to help that segment of the transport sector.

"We already extended a reduction of customs duties for heavy trucks last year," he noted. "An arrangement under which customs duties could be paid in instalments had gone into effect earlier."

"Now we have two new measures that should further help truck-owners ahead of what we expect to be an increasing demand for heavy transport vehicles of various types," added the minister.

The new measures, he explained, are a total exemption of all registration and licensing fee for one year for new trucks imported into Jordan and a separation of licensing for truck engine-cabins and trailers.

The present licensing system requires that both the engine-cabins and trailers are registered together. This limits the owner's flexibility to haul different types of trailers.

Separating the licenses of the two means, for example, that an engine-cabin could haul a trailer loaded with a container to its destination and bring back a different trailer, thus allowing flexibility and optimisation of use.

Oil price jumps dollar as Iraqi sale delayed

LONDON (R) — World oil prices jumped Monday after the United Nations put on hold an Iraqi oil-for-food exchange in response to Baghdad's military incursion into its northern Kurdish region.

October futures for international benchmark North Sea Brent blend jumped \$1.03 to \$21.81 in London by 1530 GMT.

Oil traders had been expecting Iraq to make its first oil sales on world markets for six years since the Gulf war in the next few weeks.

But U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali Sunday responded to Baghdad's military move into Iraqi Kurdistan by delaying the deployment of U.N. personnel to supervise aid distribution under the oil exchange plan.

Turkey, which provides a pipeline link for Iraqi oil exports, said it expected to see the first Iraqi oil sales delayed "for some time."

"The question may be not when will Iraqi oil sales start but whether they will start," said energy analyst Geoff Pyne at Swiss finance house UBS.

"This is a real kick for the markets," said Oystein Berentsen, international crude trading manager for Norway's Statoil.

"With demand so strong and oil stocks so low the market was looking as if it could quite easily have absorbed some Iraqi exports," he added.

The U.N. oil-for-food deal would allow Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months to purchase food, medicine and other

goods for its people suffering sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The deal signed on May 20 and renewable every six months under a U.N. review, was expected to supply tight world markets with about an extra 550,000 barrels a day (bpd) of crude at current prices.

Under the U.N. plan, dozens of monitors must be deployed across Iraq to make sure aid is fairly distributed among rebel populations. Plans to begin deployment of personnel have been halted for the moment.

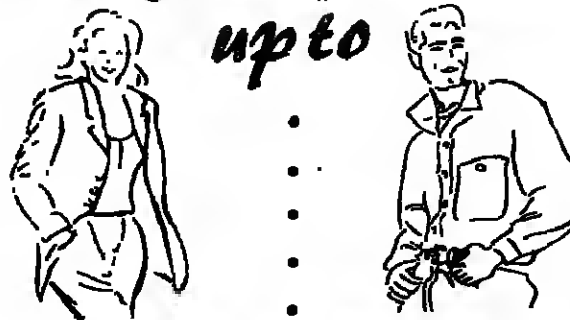
Delays to the oil sale deal come at a time when oil prices are already running some \$4 higher than at the same time last year and Middle East tensions are helping keep oil on the boil.

Low stocks of heating oil and diesel (distillates) in Europe and the United States helped drive European heating-oil futures on Monday to five-year highs. London heating-oil futures were trading up \$8.50 at \$205 a tonne.

A strong demand outlook for industrialised consumer countries and a delay in some new North Sea oil-field projects have also added to the bullish market sentiment.

"We can't expect Iraqi oil in the near future and distillate demand is still there for the winter," said Alastair Harris at brokers Mees Pierson Derivatives in London.

Big Sale Big Discount up to 50% on casual fashion wear



• B.U.M.
• BANANA REPUBLIC
• CHAPS
• QUICK SILVER
• D.K.N.Y.
• LEVI'S

Jet Set Unisex Casual Wear

Located at Abdoun Circle
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JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square to form four ordinary words.

TYED
LAWTZ
ATTRYN
KOHOD

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: MAJOR OUCHY BUCKET AFRALO

Answers: What the ex-Kelley considered his tailcoat was a DAY AT THE TRACK

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Aragon



Now arrange the circled letters to form the six-letter answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Dhaka pressed to resume reforms

DHAKA (AFP) — The World Bank has called on Bangladesh to resume its stalled economic reforms ahead of an annual aid club meeting in Paris to decide Dhaka's new foreign aid needs.

"Bangladesh cannot afford to postpone the unfinished economic and institutional reforms if it is to succeed in poverty reduction," the bank said in a report.

The 56-page report said sustained commitment to reforms was needed to achieve rapid growth and

poverty reduction.

Bangladesh officials said Finance Minister Shah A.M.S. Kibria will be in Paris to seek \$2 billion from the 24-member aid group gathering sponsored by the World Bank.

The group last year's committed \$1.95 billion.

Mr. Kibria will seek \$1.54 billion as project aid, \$300 million as commodity aid and \$160 million as food aid, the Bangladesh officials said.

Bangladesh's annual development budget is traditionally heavily dependent on foreign aid.

The new budget, announced by Kibria in July, earmarked a provisional 125 billion taka (\$2.98 billion) for development projects in the year to June 1997.

Of the allocation, 53 per cent is expected to be financed from foreign assistance.

The bank report said key challenges for Bangladesh included reestablishing macro-economic stability and resuming of structural reforms.

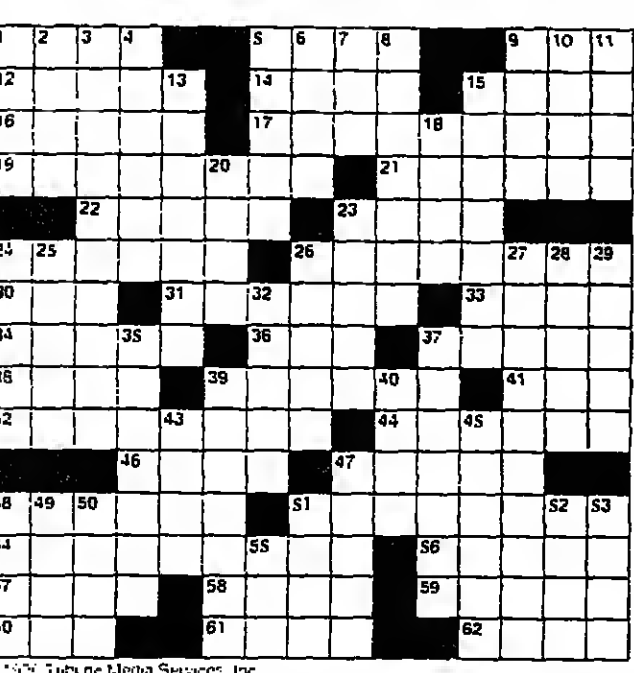
THE Daily Crossword by Melvin Kenworthy

ACROSS

- 1 Rhine leader
- 5 Male party
- 9 Short haircut
- 12 Wilson
- 14 Ponder, perch
- 15 Source of the Blue Nile
- 16 Pin
- 17 Raises
- 19 Cabinet wood
- 21 Certain racers
- 22 Skin
- 23 Colubridae
- 24 Bag
- 25 Fall
- 26 Guiding principle
- 30 Climbing plant
- 31 Crows
- 32 A clock
- 33 Scholar
- 34 Cupolas
- 36 Receive
- 37 Viral disease
- 38 Cut made on
- 39 Lightweight paper
- 41 Superlative suffix
- 42 Lawmakers
- 44 Dredges
- 45 Sir Elton
- 46 Spy work
- 47 Store, as ladder
- 51 Stupor
- 54 Auto adjunct
- 55 Like an old woman
- 57 Call a
- 58 Honolulu
- 59 Daughter of
- 60 Tantrals
- 61 Lease
- 62 Writer's end
- 63 Easy job

DOWN

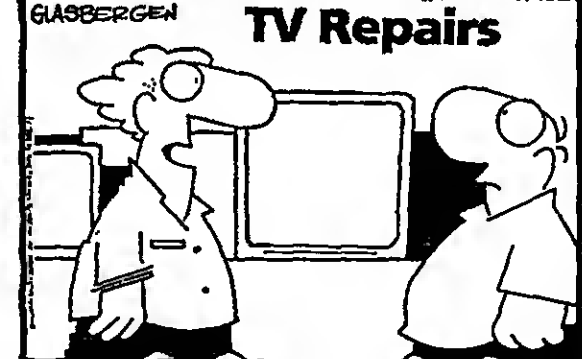
- 1 Wander
- 2 Annapolis letters
- 3 Gouty robbers
- 4 Put in more bullets
- 5 Rattles
- 6 The backward
- 7 Reindeer
- 8 Cousins of the mouse
- 9 Headquarters
- 10 Doozy
- 11 Opera voice
- 13 Rules
- 15 Is attracted by
- 18 Ireland
- 20 Italian commune
- 23 Castle adjuncts
- 24 Secretes
- 25 Call to mind
- 26 Fourth estate
- 27 Medium
- 28 Ouzo flavoring
- 29 Holey work
- 32 "It's"
- 35 Voraciousness
- 37 Web-footed bird
- 39 Bullfighters
- 40 Addict
- 43 "A" of Two Cities
- 45 Handsome youth
- 47 Netherlands city
- 48 Israeli airline
- 49 Brood of pheasants
- 50 FBI, e.g.
- 51 Stangy negatives
- 52 Exile island
- 53 Ooze
- 55 Comment from the sea



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S P I C A C H O W S H E M
A R G O S A A R E T O T O
L O O M S F R E E Z E O U T
E S T E E M I O O N D I T
I R A I S A M M O
S I A N T I V S I W A B E T A
E I A S I T S H A R I V O I N
T I P O F I T H E I C I E B E R G
U K E A B O R T A N T E
P I U N R A T E M I A N T E L
E R I S C A R O
A I S O L O O U T R A G E O
C O L O W A I T E R E N O L I A
T U L E I R I S S N E L L
S P A I R M A L E T A I S I E

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



"Your television caught a virus from your computer."

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have been using some fine talents today to gain you fame, however, you should try a new system at this time. Make your mate happy tonight and you will find that he or she will be responsive to your affection.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Start your ideas working concerning home and family today and get good results. Home life can be enjoyable later this evening if you spend this time with your loved ones and do not discuss business since you need to relax.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Communicate, handle correspondence carefully today and make time to visit with close friends whom you have not seen for awhile. Later tonight you can spend some quality time with your loved ones and have fun.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Study into new financial affairs today and you can have more funds for the lean periods. Confer with an expert later this evening who is of a practical mind and you will gain the insight to be successful in the days ahead.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) It is time to find a new interest today which is more pleasurable and exciting, since you've outgrown an older one. Later this evening you can meet with close friends and have a good time with them and relax from stress.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Complete the details of a plan today which is promising and can bring you much prosperity. The evening tonight is fine for romance with the one you love, so spend this time together and show quite a large amount of affection.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) By applying a little more effort today, you can gain valuable goals. Your friends and fellow associates can be helpful with a special project which you are currently involved in at this time and make much success.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) Handle outside activities today with greater efficiency and you can gain success from one who is in authority. This evening is a good night to be out on the town which can be pleasurable with close friends for some fun.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get more data today concerning a new interest and you can conclude a new project which you have been given. A new contact is most helpful later this evening, so be charming with this person who can make you quite successful.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Plan time today to handle business affairs at this time and you can seek out advice of some knowledgeable person. Keep a promise which you have made to your mate for a romantic evening and you can retain the harmony at home.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Some partnership matter needs to be handled carefully today or you can discover that you will be in a difficulty. Spend the evening with a fellow associate and you will gain insight to handle any difficulty which could be present.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get career activities completed during the daytime and then start a new regime later this evening so that you can be quite successful at this time. Be charming and happy with your mate and relax from any stressful situations.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli.

Business
Gover
JD2

British
me to
to man

JORDA

FOR RENT
apartment
second floor
call 857199
Real Estate
810605 - 810609
Fax: 810520

Happy Days
Salads Cafe
DAILY FROM
10 AM - 1 AM
Tel: 857199
Fax: 858537
Uthman
Hotel

Business & Finance

Government sells stakes worth JD23m in Jordanian hotels

By Samir Ghawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government has reduced its equity in the Jordan Hotels and Tourism Company from 87 per cent to 32 per cent by selling 55 per cent, or two million shares, to a consortium of 16 individuals and companies grouping Khalil Talhouni, Cairo Amman Bank, JETT (Jordan Express Transport and Tourism Company) and Zira Investment Company, which alone acquired 38 per cent of the deal, among other parties.

According to Mohammad Bataineh, the director-general of the Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC) which acts on behalf of the government in selling state equity to the private sector, a sale which was concluded last month, had a total value of JD15 million. The Jordan Hotels and Tourism Company owns the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel in Amman.

Another deal sealed last month was between the JIC and the Nazza family which bought the government's 33.75 per cent stake in the Jordan Holiday Hotels Company which owns both the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman and the Holiday International Hotel in Aqaba.

The Nazzas who are the founders of the two hotels have paid JD 8 million to buy the 81,000 shares that

the government held in the company.

The third sale took place late last year and was for 235,000 shares that the government owned in the Jordan Paper and Card-board Factories Company. The value of the sale amounted to about JD 1 million and left the government with around 18 per cent equity in the company, down from about 27 per cent.

Mr. Bataineh told the Jordan Times Sunday that before the end of this year the JIC will be offering the private sector the opportunity to buy government

equity in an additional five companies which he declined to name before obtaining the approval of the board of directors on them.

He affirmed however, that the JIC is ready to study any request from the private sector to purchase government equity in various companies at any time. The JIC drive towards privatisation has not been completely successful, however, as the corporation did not receive any response to offers to sell state equity in the Arab International Hotels (AIH), the Jordan Worsteds Mills Company (JWMC),

the Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette Company and the National Company (Shafa) for Food Processing known for its tomato paste production. Mr. Bataineh said that the corporation is keen on offering shares of only successful and profitable companies to the private sector.

He indicated that the two other alternatives are reforming and restructuring struggling companies or liquidating them.

As such, he pointed out, the JIC has recently liquidated the Dar Al Sha'ab Press, Printing, Publishing and Distributing Company, the Glass Industries Com-

pany, the Jordan Company for TV, Radio and Cinema Production and the Jordan Timber Processing Company. At present,

Mr. Bataineh said, the JIC is trying to rectify the situation of the ailing Jordan Precast Concrete Industry by either restructuring it or, if unsuccessful, recommending its liquidation. Other companies which are being straightened out are the Jordan Tourism and Spa Complex or Main Spa as it is publicly known and the consultancy company for establishing and maintaining projects. Mr. Bataineh added.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
JORDANIAN STOCK EXCHANGE - AMMAN - SUNDAY											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 02/09/1996											
PRICE	12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	S / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF UP	NO. OF DOWN	VALUE	TRADED	PRICE	CHANGE
250,000	205,000	ARAB BANK	12.4	1.32	7	440	102000	232.00	231.00	1.00	-
1,310	880	MID-EAST INV. BK.	60.4	0.00	12	53276	48013	90	90	0.00	-
1,700	1,200	CHOPPERED DEV. BK.	12.2	0.00	7	2850	6399	3.22	3.22	0.00	-
2,040	2,000	JOB. COAST BANK	12.2	0.00	7	148	924	3.70	3.68	0.02	-
1,240	890	JOB. COAST BANK	5.4	7.69	6	40824	37451	92	91	0.01	-
4,180	3,300	JOB. ISLAMIC BANK	17.2	0.00	6	1181	4356	2.28	1.50	0.01	-
2,020	1,700	UNION IS. INV. CO.	2	0.00	3	345	629	1.72	1.72	0.00	-
3,470	2,330	UNION IS. INV. CO.	1.6	6.41	4	703	1633	2.39	2.39	0.00	-
1,090	240	ARAB BANK CHV.	5	0.00	3	2574	607	2.24	2.23	0.01	-
1,080	1,000	UNION IS. INV. CO.	5	0.00	4	10156	20926	1.11	1.11	0.00	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 176.82 CHNG: -0.33											
2,910	2,160	JOB. FRENCH INSUR.	6.2	9.00	2	130	330	2.21	2.20	0.01	-
2,600	1,910	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	7.2	8.33	3	1000	1920	1.91	1.92	0.01	-
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 121.58 CHNG: 0.00											
1,900	1,460	JOB. ISLAMIC BANK	10.7	7.79	14	51379	79123	1.96	1.96	0.00	-
1,950	1,140	TRUST INVESTMENT	9.6	6.40	4	1011	1466	1.48	1.47	0.01	-
2,250	1,080	NATL. POSTAL	9	0.00	10	2030	3316	1.21	1.19	0.02	-
2,250	1,080	JORDAN TEL. CO.	11.2	0.00	9	1112	5114	1.21	1.21	0.00	-
2,460	1,790	MID-EAST BANK	77.5	0.00	2	430	612	1.82	1.80	0.02	-
1,380	860	JORDAN EDUCATION	9	0.00	18	6000	6480	1.10	1.00	0.01	-
2,430	1,700	UNION IS. INV. CO.	5.6	5.48	3	800	825	1.90	1.92	0.02	-
1,200	820	UNION IS. INV. CO.	5	0.00	3	800	825	1.90	1.92	0.02	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 111.20 CHNG: -0.21											
26,620	18,950	JOB. THOMSON & CO.	16.6	2.64	3	20	661	21.64	20.88	1.08	-
3,770	3,060	JOB. COAST FACT.	19.2	2.98	26	9325	23355	1.28	1.25	0.03	-
1,940	1,760	ARAB POSTAL	16.7	5.42	13	2510	21099	3.80	3.82	0.02	-
10,550	8,720	JOB. PETROL REFINERY	9.4	8.63	14	4924	48532	9.27	9.27	0.00	-
1,590	1,250	WOLLEN INDUSTRIES	08.8	0.00	1	300	422	2.38	1.34	0.04	-
2,020	1,460	INDUSTRIAL CONC. BAK.	22.2	0.00	2	111	2897	99	99	0.01	-
8,150	4,420	JOB. WORSTED MILLS	9.1	3.42	2	1000	7100	7.10	7.10	0.00	-
5,100	3,100	ARAB PHARM. IND.	20.8	6.28	21	5350	20398	3.80	3.79	0.01	-
8,480	6,850	JOB. PHARM. IND.	1.8	4.13	4	1750	10465	6.01	6.05	0.04	-
8,000	5,850	QAR ALDINA DV. INV.	12.0	4.21	4	1650	7393	4.40	4.75	0.05	-
5,800	3,100	ARAB ALUM. IND.	8.6	8.70	3	1600	3275	3.44	3.45	0.01	-
1,770	1,370	LIVERPOOL & POLYMER	9	0.00	50	13150	80764	99	99	0.01	-
1,000	1,080	ARAB FIBER CONC. LTD.	8.5	8.28	4	1500	1875	1.26	1.25	0.01	-
2,460	1,210	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	4	2150	3299	1.52	1.48	0.04	-
1,210	860	INDUSTRIAL CONC. BAK.	9.9	8.58	22	30000	20280	1.95	1.87	0.08	-
1,000	1,080	INDUSTRIAL CONC. BAK.	9.9	8.58	22	30000	20280	1.95	1.87	0.08	-
1,170	830	JOB. ROCKWELL IND.	5	0.00	1	500	425	3.32	3.31	0.01	-
3,580	2,620	UNION IS. INV. CO.	5.6	5.48	3	800	825	1.90	1.92	0.02	-
4,700	4,700	JOB. WOOD IND.	16.2	2.33	3	1500	2460	4.75	4.53	0.22	-
1,600	830	JOB. SULPHUR CONC.	9	0.00	8	1500	1330	9.00	9.00	0.00	-
3,280	1,080	ARAB PHARM. IND.	27.0	0.00	6	1850	2806	1.66	1.44	0.02	-
3,280	1,080	UNION IS. INV. CO.	5.6	5.48	3	1500	837	1.96	1.46	0.10	-
2,100	1,100	JOB. CHOS. RESOURCES	27.0	0.00	17	5100	6903	1.36	1.36	0.00	-
3,700	980	JOB. NEW CABLE CO.	28.3	0.00	12	7500	7325	9.9	9.9	0.02	-
2,460	1,750	KE - JAY READY WEAR	3	0.00	3	1300	2353	1.82	1.81	0.01	-
1,490	1,080	TRIT. TOBACCO	27.1	0.00	16	9500	10989	1.46	1.46	0.00	-
2,120	1,230	UNION CH. & VEG.	28.3	0.00	2	12050	14779	1.16	1.23	0.02	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 110.91 CHNG: -0.13											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 143.91 CHNG: -0.23											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 02/09/1996											
R	0.810	JOB. TRADE PAC.	16.5	0.00	3	1000	620	0.62	0.62	0.00	-

Dolphins, Packers, 49ers win on NFL opening day

MIAMI (AFP) — Former Dallas coach Jimmy Johnson, who guided the Cowboys to two American football titles, took a victory he rated as meaningful as any in his career Sunday in his debut with Miami.

Johnson was a winner in his return to the National Football League after two seasons working as a television commentator when the Dolphins beat New England 24-10.

National Football League rookie Karim Abdul-Jabbar rushed for 115 yards and a touchdown and the Dolphins recovered two fumbles for touchdowns to subdue the Patriots.

Johnson lifted Dallas from 1-15 to two Super Bowl crowns in five years before leaving in 1994 and spending two years as a television commentator. He was signed to replace Don Shula, the winningest NFL coach of all time.

"I have won a lot of big games and gotten a lot of game balls," Johnson said. "But this one, in my first game and first win as coach of the Miami Dolphins, means as much to me as any win I have ever received."

Miami quarterback Dan Marino threw for 176 yards as the Dolphins relied on their running game and improved to a league-best 23-4 in home openers since 1970. But Miami has not won an NFL title since 1974.

Pittsburgh, losers to Dallas in January's Super Bowl, opened with a 24-9 defeat at Jacksonville and lost linebacker Greg Lloyd to a season-ending left knee injury. Mark Brunell threw for 212 yards and two touchdowns for the triumphant Jaguars.

NFL action returned to Baltimore for the first time since 1983 when the debuting Ravens, formerly the Cleveland Browns, beat Oakland 19-14. Baltimore lost the Colts 12 years ago when owner Robert Irsay moved them to Indianapolis.

Quarterback Vinny Testaverde ran for one touchdown and guided an 83-yard march for Earnest Byner's winning one-yard touchdown run with 7:50 to play. He completed 10-of-33 passes for 254 yards and Testaverde scrambled nine yards for the first touchdown in Ravens' history with 39 seconds left in the opening period.

"It is kind of storybook for the Ravens and Baltimore to win this game," Byner said.

The game was played before 64,124 fans at memorial stadium, the largest crowd for a sporting event in Baltimore.

Jim Harbaugh shook off a bruised arm and threw two touchdown passes to lift Indianapolis past Arizona 20-13, making Vince Tobin a winner in his coaching debut.

Minnesota reserve quarterback Brad Johnson replaced injured starter Warren Moon and connected with Cris Carter on a 31-yard touchdown pass with 66 seconds remaining to beat Detroit 17-13.

Carolina kicker John Kasay kicked a club-record five field goals and Kerry Collins threw a pair of touchdown passes in the Panthers' 29-6 victory over Atlanta. African-born rusher Tim Biakabutuka ran 22 times for 67 yards in the victory.

John Carney kicked five



Miami Dolphins rookie runningback Karim Abdul-Jabbar (#33) is brought down by New England Patriots strong safety Terry Ray after a gain of 12 yards in the first quarter. The Dolphins, known as a passing team, unveiled their running game in their season opener against the Patriots (Reuters photo)



San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Jerry Rice beats New Orleans Saints linebacker Mark Fields to the end zone as Rice scores a TD from the 2-yard line on an end around in the first quarter of their NFL game (Reuters photo)

field goals and San Diego beat Seattle 29-7, downing the Seahawks for the fifth time in a row and ninth in the past 10 meetings.

Brett Favre threw four touchdown passes, three to Keith Jackson in the first half alone, and the Green Bay Packers demolished Tampa Bay 34-3. Favre, the 1995 NFL most valu-

able player, has recovered from an off-season addiction to painkilling drugs.

Kansas City quarterback Steve Bono threw two touchdown passes and Dale Carter made a key interception and the Chiefs erased an early 10-point deficit to beat Houston 20-19 for a seventh consecutive opening-day triumph.

NFL RESULTS

Indianapolis 20	Arizona 13
Philadelphia 17	Washington 14
Baltimore 19	Oakland 14
Jacksonville 24	Pittsburgh 9
Kansas City 20	Houston 19
Carolina 29	Atlanta 6
St. Louis 26	Cincinnati 16
Minnesota 17	Detroit 13
Green Bay 34	Tampa Bay 3
Miami 24	New England 10
Denver 31	New York Jets 6
San Diego 29	Seattle 7
S.Francisco 27	New Orleans 11

Rodney Peete threw for 257 yards and two touchdowns in the first half and Philadelphia beat Washington 17-14. The Eagles have won the last eight meetings from Washington by a total of 29 points.

Lawrence Phillips scored twice and St. Louis downed Cincinnati 26-16 while Denver routed the New York Jets 31-6.

San Francisco ripped New Orleans 27-11. Jerry Rice had five receptions for 88 yards and scored his 10th career rushing touchdown, extending his NFL record with his 157th career touchdown. Steve Young completed 18 of 29 passes for 199 yards and ran for 52 yards.

Steve Christie kicked a 34-yard field goal in overtime to give Buffalo a 23-20 triumph over the New York Giants.

Top brass refuses to go after Japan's Olympic flop

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's top sports officials have refused to step down after the country's biggest-ever Olympic team came home with their worst medal haul in 40 years.

However, Kuniaki Yoshida and Eizo Kenmotsu, who headed the women's volleyball squad and the gymnastic team, have been sacked.

Shuji Yokoyama is also stepping down as head of the gymnastic association after his team came back without a medal for the first time in 11 Olympics.

Hironoshin Furuhashi, head of the Japanese Olympic Committee, said before leaving for Atlanta at the head of 310 competitors and 189 officials, they would bring home 30 medals, including at least five golds.

Japan won three gold, six silver and five bronze medals for their poorest result since they returned to the Olympics at the 1952 Helsinki Games. But Furuhashi is not going.

Tsutomu Hayashi, executive director of the swimming federation, also refused to step down.

"We don't have to replace officials automatically. We can learn from the failure for our next challenge," he said.

The Olympic expedition cost 343 million yen (\$3.2 million), half of which came from taxpayers' money.

The Olympic committee has an annual budget of 2.5 billion yen (\$23 million), 60 per cent covered by the state budget.

Furuhashi has won a promise from the education ministry to allot 15 million Yen (\$140,000) next year for a feasibility study into a national training centre.

Japanese women, who dominated world volleyball in the 1960s and 1970s, won only one preliminary round match and lost four others without taking a set.

Men's Judo head coach Yasuhiro Yamashita, who had to be restrained from beating up a reporter who suggested he should take the blame for the defeats of Japan's Olympic and world champions in Atlanta, stays in his job.

The judo team won three gold, four silver and one bronze medals — accounting for all of Japan's gold medals.

The women's swimming squad was billed as the "strongest in history". Aji Aoyama and Hitomi Kasahira had swum the world's fastest 100m and 200m butterfly times before Atlanta.

But Kasahira swam eight seconds slower than her personal record and the other 14 Japanese swimmers who had peaked for the national championships in April failed to find form.

"We intend to make thorough inquiries," Teruji Kokage, the JOC director of competitive development, said.

But Suzy Chitba, a 20-year-old freestyle swimmer, has already offered an explanation.

"Japanese people are really crazy about medals. We went there to enjoy ourselves," he said.

Graf's father to go on trial

MANNHEIM, GERMANY (AFP) — Tennis ace Steffi Graf's father Peter goes on trial here Thursday charged with evading nearly 20 million marks (\$13 million) in taxes on his daughter's earnings between 1989 and 1993.

The revelations of Graf's fiscal manoeuvres through a host of foreign bank accounts have made headlines since his arrest a year ago, but the big question still to be answered is how much Steffi knew about it.

The 27-year-old darling of the German public, which considers her the greatest tennis player of all time, has consistently denied knowing how her father managed the vast fortune she has acquired on her way to 20 Grand Slam titles.

Few people have a kind word to say about Peter Graf, a former second hand car dealer who is accused of being a bad father, greedy beyond measure and an alcoholic, who has come up in the world only because of his daughter's talent.

Even an offer of up to 15 million marks in bail failed to get him out of jail pending the trial.

The figures being bandied about are dizzying: Steffi Graf is estimated to have earned more than 150 million marks (\$100 million) in prize money and commercial deals by the end of last year, since her first income of \$725 in 1982.

According to German tax authorities, 42 million marks were never declared to them, having been squirreled away in bank accounts in Luxembourg, Lichtenstein and the Netherlands, and then invested in the Dutch West Indies via the Sunpark Sports Company set up in 1987.

Apart from Steffi's role, the trial of Peter Graf, 60, and his tax adviser Joachim Eckardt should clear up a few other questions, notably the attitude of the German authorities.

State and federal officials and politicians are suspected of turning a blind eye to the fiddles in order to keep at least some of the cash, and not to see a national heroine decamp to some tax haven.

The popular press, which agonises over whether Steffi deserves a jail sentence, claims a deal will be done, whereby she will be wiped clear of all suspicion against a payment of just three million marks.

Officially, the legal procedures launched in April 1995 after years of warnings, fines and assessments targeted Stefanie Maria Graf, professional tennis player, rather than her father or Eckardt.

But Steffi is not even being called as a witness by the prosecution, while her father seems prepared to take all the blame.

However, Eckardt's lawyer is less obliging, saying a fair trial is impossible without her testimony.



Peruvian Rogel Serrano (right) and Bolivian Marcos Etcheverry struggle for the ball during their World Cup qualifying match played in La Paz, Hernando Siles Stadium. The game ended in a 0-0 tie (Reuters photo)

World Cup qualifiers

Winning start for Hoddle as Swiss and Bulgarians crash

PARIS (AFP) — England gave manager Glenn Hoddle a perfect baptism as coach Sunday as they defeated Moldova 3-0 in their opening 1998 World Cup group two qualifying match in Kishinev.

Once England had found their feet on a bumpy pitch, Hoddle's makeshift side, shorn of half a dozen regulars, were rarely threatened as they dictated the pace of the game throughout in the Republic stadium.

England took the lead on 24 minutes when Middlesbrough striker Nick Barry volleyed home a Gary Neville cross from the right with aplomb. And within 60 seconds, England had gone two up.

Paul Ince made space on the edge of the box and flicked the ball up for Paul Gascoigne of Rangers to score with a looping header.

On the hour, Alan Shearer, captaining the side for the first time, steered home the third for his first goal in an England shirt away from Wembley.

Gareth Southgate played a long ball out of defence. Neville's header on caused confusion in the Moldovan defence and Shearer, the world's most expensive footballer, took advantage to slide the ball in past keeper Romanenco.

Moldova missed a late penalty, awarded for a foul

by Stuart Pearce, when left back Ion Tesimutanu blasted his kick against the woodwork.

But while England, who next face Poland at Wembley October 9, were coasting to their first three points on the road to France, some of their fellow travellers were having a rather more exacting time.

Bulgaria, who reached the World Cup semifinals in the U.S. two years ago slid to a shock 2-1 defeat Sunday in Israel, despite taking a third-minute lead through Krasimir Balakov.

And Switzerland, who reached the knockout phase of USA 94 but like Bulgaria failed to progress beyond the group stages of Euro 96 in England, crashed 1-0 in Baku on Saturday to Azerbaijan in their opening group three game.

Scotland grabbed a precious away point in group four after holding Austria to a goalless draw in Vienna. But Sweden head the group after winning 2-1 in Latvia with first half efforts from Martin Dahlin and Kennet Andersson. Vitass Rimkus hit a 56th-minute consolation in front of a crowd of 7,000.

The Swedes now have a maximum six points from two games, having begun with a 5-1 home thrashing of Belarus. In the same group, Belarus beat Estonia

1-0. Northern Ireland began their programme disastrously by going down 1-0 at home to Ukraine in Belfast despite dominating possession. And Portugal also disappointed in the same group as they eked out a 0-0 draw in Armenia.

Elsewhere, matches generally went the form book's way, as unpredictable Russia, group five rivals of Bulgaria, crushed Cyprus 4-0. In group one, Denmark triumphed 2-0 in Slovenia with goals from Nielsoo and Schonberg in the closing stages, while Greece saw off Bosnia, playing in their first world cup tie, 3-0.

Wales hammered San Marino 6-0 in group seven on Saturday — Dean Saunders and Mark Hughes scoring twice — while group rivals Belgium also won at home, 2-1 against Turkey.

In South American qualifying action early on Sunday, Ecuador beat Venezuela 1-0 in Quito before a 40,000 crowd with an early goal from Alex Aguinaga.

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CONCORD "2"
Ahmad Zaki...in
Naser 56 (Arabic)
Shows: 12:00, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45

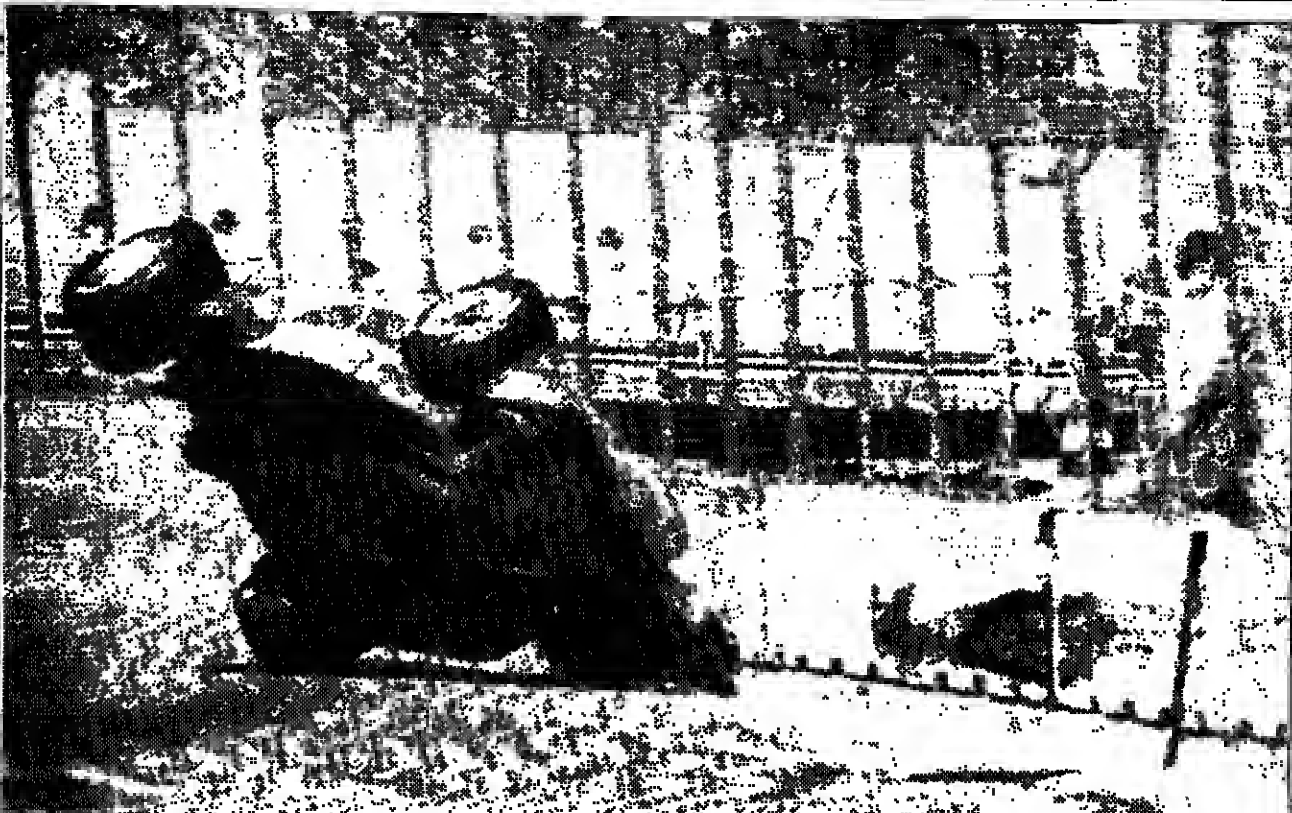
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A trackworker looks on as pole-sitter and rookie driver Alex Zanardi of Italy drives his car on two wheels after colliding with P. J. Jones during their Indy Car race in Vancouver. Michael Andretti won the race, Bobby Rahal finished second and Christian Fittipaldi finished third. Zanardi did not finish the race but was named rookie of the year afterwards (Reuters photo)

Asian Basketball Championship Philippines beat Jordan 83-73

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE KINGDOM'S under-18 basketball team lost their second match at the Asian Junior Basketball Championship currently underway in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia when they went down 83-73 (52-37) to the Philippines on the second day of the 15-nation tournament.

The result means Jordan is almost certainly out of contention for the semifinal round and will end up playing for 5-15th places after they also lost 67-42 to Qatar in their first match.

Only the top two teams in each of the four groups will move to the semifinal round which starts Thursday.

Jordan next plays Singapore in the final match of Group 3 Wednesday. The other three groups include:

Group 1: Korea, India and Malaysia
Group 2: China, Kazakhstan, Japan, and Bangladesh
Group 4: Thailand, Chinese Taipei, Iran and Hong Kong.

The Asian Basketball Confederation had placed Jordan atop group three after having won third place in their first Asian participation last year. The team then beat hosts the Philippines in the final second 72-71, Singapore 88-35, Hong Kong 71-24, Japan 73-56 and Thailand 62-56. They lost twice to eventual titleholders South Korea 75-61 and 69-51 and to second-placed China 88-49 in the semifinal round.

The record-setting team thus became the first Jordanian team to qualify for a world championship.

However, that feat seems impossible to repeat this year as Jordan Basketball Federation officials noted that a host of reasons, including the timing of the tournament for mostly tawihli students as well as the unavailability of training facilities and enough funds prevented them from better preparing for the 15-team tournament.

The team includes Tawfiq Marar, Iyad Abdeen, Ayman Du'yeh, Bashar Huneidi, Mrhef Nahulsi, Ala' Bilbeisi, Ra'fat Daraghme, Mohammad Bashir, Mo'tasem Salameh, Bassam Qamhi, Nihad Madi, Leith Farouqi and Omar Abdallah.

U.S. Open

Aces high as Sampras, Ivanisevic and Philippoussis advance

NEW YORK (AFP) — World number one Pete Sampras turned up the volume on his serve to reach the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis championships on Sunday along with two other big-hitters, Goran Ivanisevic and Mark Philippoussis.

Sampras served 18 aces in a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Russian Alexander Volkov. Ivanisevic and Philippoussis had 25 apiece. Ivanisevic in a 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (13/11) victory over Hendrik Dreckmann of Germany and Philippoussis in a 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 win over French 16th seed Cedric Pioline.

"When I'm serving that big, it gives me an opportunity to be that much more aggressive on my return games," said Sampras, who didn't face a break point in the entire match.

"My whole game revolves around my service percentage. If it was like today, I feel I'm tough to beat."

Sampras, looking for his first grand slam of 1996 after winning at least two major titles in each of the past three years, set up a dangerous clash with

Philippoussis.

The 19-year-old Australian has already played Sampras in three grand slams. He lost to Sampras here last year, then stunned the American at the Australian Open. Sampras got his revenge with a victory at Wimbledon.

Philippoussis, who didn't face a break point against Pioline, took his total of aces for the tournament to 78. But he says there's more to his game than a big serve.

"I have been concentrating on other parts of my game," said the world's 22nd-ranked player. "When I'm serving well, the ball's not coming back. I haven't got a chance to do something else. When the ball comes back, I'll show you I can do something else."

Ivanisevic, seeded fourth and ranked sixth in the world, made it into the fourth round for only the second time in eight U.S. Open appearances.

His 25 aces against Dreckmann took his total for the tournament to 52.

While Philippoussis often blasts his serve over at 130 mph (208 km/h), Ivanisevic said speed for him was not

the key factor in serving aces.

Ivanisevic next faces Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine, who beat Czech Petr Korda 6-2, 6-4, 6-3.

Two-time U.S. Open champion Stefan Edberg relied on finesse rather than power in a 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), 6-1 victory over Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands.

The stylish Swede, who plans to retire later this year, looked confident at the net, apart from a string of four backhand volley misses in a row to drop his serve in the second set.

Edberg next plays Briton Tim Henman, who upset 12th-seeded American Todd Martin 6-2, 7-6 (7/4), 6-4.

Martin served his first double fault of the match to give Henman match point in the 10th game of the final set. Henman then beat him with a forehand passing shot to become the first Briton to reach the fourth round of the U.S. Open since John Lloyd in 1984.

French veteran Guy Forget advanced with a 6-2, 7-5, 4-6, 4-6, 6-0 victory over 20-year-old Sjeng Schalko of the Netherlands. He will

play Spain's Alex Corretja, who beat Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman 6-2, 4-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Womeo's Olympic champion Lindsay Davenport, the eighth seed, saw a 16-match winning streak end as unseeded Linda Wild beat her 6-2, 3-6, 6-0 in the women's fourth round.

In the quarterfinals, world number 32 wild will face fourth-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez, who beat Swede Asa Carlsson 6-2, 6-1.

Second-seeded Monica Seles hooked a quarterfinal berth with a 7-5, 6-0 victory over Sandrine Testud of France.

Testud served for the first set at 5-4 but was broken without having a set point. That gave Seles the only opening she needed.

The 22-year-old American, who is nursing a shoulder injury that affects her serve, won that game and nine more to take the match.

In the quarters Seles will face South African Amanda Coetzer, who beat American Lisa Raymond 6-4, 6-1.

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Barcelona triumph in season opener

MADRID (AFP) — Perennial powerhouses Barcelona got off to a flying start when they won 4-2 away to Oviedo in the opening round of the Spanish League on Sunday.

The Catalan club, now being coached by former England manager Bobby Robson, scored four times in a frenetic second half that saw six goals in all after a goalless first half.

Defending champions

Atletico Madrid also started the season with an impressive victory, downing Celta Vigo 2-0 with strikes from Argentine striker Juan Eduardo Esnaider and Spanish international Kiko in the five minutes after halftime.

Tenerife, who sold leading scorer Juan Antonio Pizzi to Barcelona during the summer, had no trouble finding the net in his absence. They had six different scorers in a 6-0 triumph at home to Compostella that took them to the top of the standings.

Real Madrid drew 1-1 at Deportivo La Coruna.

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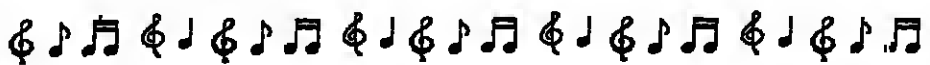
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1 bass
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Interested candidates are requested to submit their C.V. to the National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620, fax: 687621.

Announcement
Entries for the Theory and Practical Examination of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music will be accepted from 7 to 14 September 1996. The practical examination will be held in Amman next November, December 1996.
For registration and further information about syllabuses and regulations, please contact the local representative:
The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation
Jabal Amman, Atiyat Building, Behind the Embassy of Kuwait
P.O. Box 926687, Amman / Jordan
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Israel opens new road for settlers in West Bank

Extremists want to revive Gush Emunim bloc, say they might have erred in backing Netanyahu

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel inaugurated on Monday a major new road linking Jerusalem to the Gush Etzion bloc of settlements near Hebron in the southern West Bank.

Ariel Sharon, the minister of national infrastructure and a hardline proponent of expanding Jewish settlements in Palestinian territories, presided over the ceremony at the entrance to the road on the southern outskirts of Jerusalem.

Mr. Sharon, who has been sidelined from key policymaking by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, chided the premier for his readiness to meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Asked about reports the summit was imminent, Mr. Sharon replied: "This is a happy occasion today and I am involved in serious things. I don't want to talk about that meeting."

The new route represents the most ambitious project yet to permit Israelis to travel to and from settlements without passing through Palestinian-controlled zones.

Running through mountainous terrain, the route includes two tunnels, one of them 900 metres long running under the Palestinian village of Bet Sahur near Bethlehem, and a 350-metre bridge.

The project was launched five years ago when the right was last in power and Mr. Sharon was housing and construction minister, but it was pursued by his Labour successor, Benjamin Ben Eliezer.

The road inauguration coincides with growing Palestinian and international concern over the settlement policy of Mr. Netanyahu and the right-wing coalition government which took office in June.

The government announced last month that it was lifting a four-year-old freeze on

most new settlement construction and subsequently approved the construction of hundreds of new homes for settlers, mostly in the Jerusalem region.

Meanwhile, a Jewish settler leader called Monday for the revival of Gush Emunim, the extremist religious group which in the 1980s demanded Israel's annexation of settlements in the occupied territories.

"We may have made a mistake in supporting Benjamin Netanyahu," settler leader Israel Harel said.

"We have been disappointed by his policies and ideology," he said, "and we should consider reviving Gush Emunim as an opposition force which can put the government in its place."

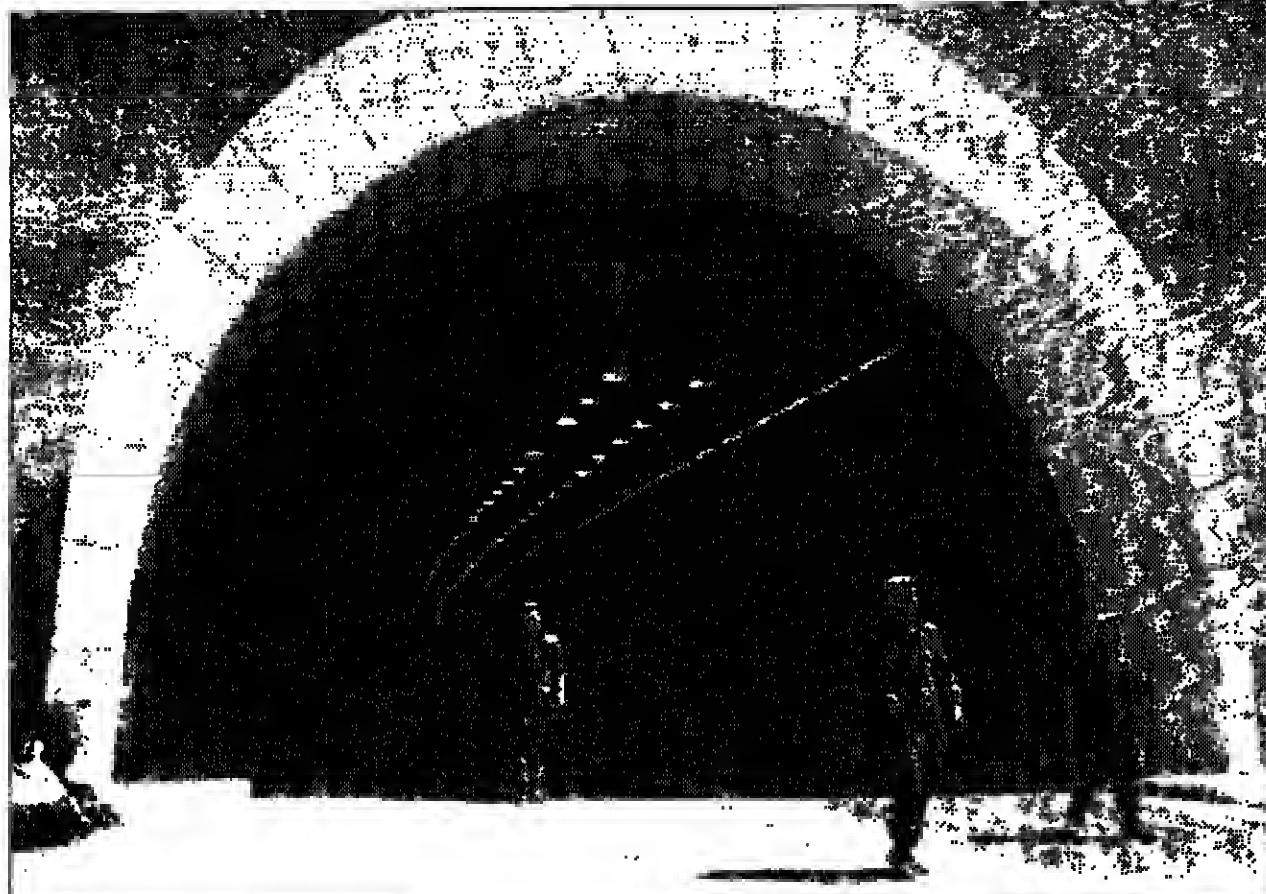
Founded in 1974, Gush Emunim, or the bloc of the faithful, spearheaded the building of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but faded during the 1980s after some of its members became involved in the activities of a clandestine Jewish anti-Arab terrorist network.

"The reality does not correspond to what we had expected from this government," Mr. Harel said. Five months ago Mr. Harel started a large movement of settlers and religious Jews in support of Mr. Netanyahu's May 29 election bid.

The spokesman of the Israeli settlers council, Aharon Domb, said that "Harel represents his own personal point of view, which, however, is worth looking at."

Mr. Netanyahu's administration hopes to modify the autonomy accords signed with the Palestinians by the previous left-wing Labour government.

It has made several symbolic gestures towards the settlers but has not really relaunched settlement in the Palestinian territories.



Israeli soldiers patrol the West Bank entrance of a newly-opened tunnel and bridge network linking the large Gush Etzion settlement block to Jerusalem built at a cost of more than \$40 million (Reuters photo)

'Bonn paid Hizbollah for two Israeli corpses'

BONN (AFP) — The German government paid \$25 million to the Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrilla movement as part of a deal on behalf of the Israeli government for the return of the bodies of two Israeli soldiers handed over in July, Bild newspaper reported Monday. A government spokesman, however, formally denied the report to AFP as "incorrect."

The report also said that Iran played an "important role" in the deal, which was negotiated by the German government's secret services coordinator Bernd Schmiedbauer, a close aide of Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Bild said that Hizbollah first demanded \$50 million, while Bonn offered only \$15 million. But, the paper quoted a senior Israeli diplomat as saying, after further negotiations, the two sides finally agreed on a sum of \$25 million plus supplies of medical equipment worth another \$18 million.

The usually well-informed mass-circulation daily said that in the event \$5 million never reached the Hizbollah leadership, having been apparently creamed off by middlemen.

Bild also stated the German government had offered to pay a similar amount to the guerrilla movement for the release of Israeli pilot Ron Arad, but added that Hizbollah had apparently indicated it had no information on Arad's fate.

Arafat accelerates release of opponents of peace process

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has released 122 detainees, many of them suspected militants, from West Bank jails in the past month, Palestinian officials said Monday.

Of those, 84 were freed in the past three days, said Brigadier Haj Ismail Jaber. Palestinian police commander in the West Bank.

Brig. Jaber said committees had been formed to review the files of all detainees.

The releases were likely to anger Israel which has demanded that Mr. Arafat rein in the militants who have been responsible for a series of bloody attacks on Israelis.

A Palestinian security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Monday that a total of 122 detainees had been freed over the past month, including 43 from the jail in Nablus, 53 from the lockup in Jenin and 26 from Ramallah prison.

Some 250 suspected militants remain in detention, including many who would eventually be charged with illegal weapons possession, another security official said.

Mr. Arafat's security forces had rounded up some 900 activists in the militant groups Hamas and Islamic jihad in the spring in response to four suicide bombings in Israel.

The sources said the 26 freed Sunday from the Ramallah jail signed "a promise not to violate Palestinian National Authority policy."

"More will be released soon as they are cleared by investigations of any wrongdoing," a security source said.

Palestinian officials will not say how many of the militants remain in PNA jails, but they were believed to number fewer than 200.

Yassin may be freed

A Israeli cabinet minister said on Sunday there may soon be an announcement about whether the Jewish state will free Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, wheelchair-bound founder of the Hamas organisation.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, asked if Israel planned to release the ailing cleric, said late on Sunday: "I think you'll soon hear tidings on this subject."

Sheikh Yassin, 60, is serving a life sentence for order-

ing attacks by Hamas militants against Israeli targets. Though jailed since 1989, he remains the spiritual leader of Hamas.

Responding to a reporter's suggestion Sheikh Yassin's release might be announced as part of an expected meeting in the near future between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat, Mr. Kahalani said:

"If I were the prime minister, I would say different things, at the moment I am only internal security minister, and, as such, I assume that soon you will hear a more orderly announcement on the matter." He declined to elaborate. Mr. Arafat has repeatedly demanded Sheikh Yassin be released on humanitarian grounds.

In July, following the recovery of the body of Ilan Saadon, an Israeli soldier kidnapped by Hamas seven years ago, Israel said it would consider freeing Sheikh Yassin.

An Israeli military court convicted and sentenced Sheikh Yassin for ordering the kidnapping and killing of Saadon and another soldier. Saadon's body was recovered with the aid of information supplied by the PNA.

Two killed in Sudanese rioting over bread shortage

CAIRO (Agencies) — Two people were killed and seven injured in angry demonstrations that broke out in the Sudanese capital over a bread shortage, Sudan's Interior Ministry said Monday.

Police opened fire Sunday when students poured into the streets of central Khartoum and surrounded government buildings, yelling anti-government slogans, according to the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat.

A woman student died in the police gunfire and a government truck driver was believed to have been shot to death by the rioters, Al Hayat said.

The severe bread shortage in Khartoum and its twin city of Omdurman started Saturday when bakery owners shut their shops to protest a government order to reduce bread prices by an average of 10 per cent.

The bakers complained the government did not order a similar cut in wheat prices or deliver promised wheat rations.

On Monday, the Sudanese Interior Ministry, which is responsible for police, reported the two deaths. A ministry statement also said seven people, including three police officers, were wounded.

It said the incident resulted from "an emergency shortage of bread which was caused by a misunderstanding of directives issued by Khartoum state regarding pricing."

"Some people attempted to take advantage of the situation by engaging in riots ... which prompted the police force to intervene to keep the peace," the statement added.

On Sunday, government and bakery representatives agreed to price "high-quality bread" in line with wheat prices, but it was not clear if bakeries opened Monday.

Sudan is one of Africa's poorest countries struggling under the economic strains of a 13-year civil war in the south and a foreign debt of more than \$15 billion.

Small quantities of bread appeared in the markets on Monday and heavy rain overnight helped keep people indoors.

In an apparent sign of differences within the government over the bread affair, Finance Minister Abdul Wahhab Osman said he was not consulted on the new bread pricing policy.

In an interview with the newly established Arabic daily Alwan he criticised the policies of the Khartoum provincial government as contrary to the policies of economic liberation.

"Control is the way to scarcity, the blackmarket and corruption," the minister said.

"It is better for the public to get high prices with abundance than high prices with scarcity," he added.

He suggested the Khartoum province authorities confine their activities to checking weights and curbing the activities of middlemen, whom he accused of raising the price of bread after it has left the baker.

U.N. mandates are questionable for intervention in northern Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (R) — By hinting at military action in response to Iraq's offensive against Kurds in its northern provinces, the Clinton administration is basing a potential use of force on murky international legal grounds.

The United States for several years has invoked U.N. Security Council Resolution 688, which in April 1991 condemned the Iraqi government's repression of minorities, as an underpinning for creating no-fly zones in the north and the southern parts of the country.

U.S. officials argue now that Erbil, a stronghold of one Kurdish faction overrun by Iraqi ground forces on Saturday, violates that resolution.

But Resolution 688, while encouraging widespread relief aid to the Kurds by international organisations after the Gulf war, did not specifically set up a safe haven off limits to Iraqi troops. It also deliberately excluded military force.

China had threatened to veto any measure that would justify foreign military intervention during the debate on the resolution

which France's late president, Francois Mitterrand, insisted the council adopt.

In subsequent years, the United States and its allies kept their dealings with Iraq on the no-fly zones away from the Security Council, thereby giving credence to those who maintained the West was stretching the interpretation of Resolution 688.

But at the same time, most council members turned a blind eye to exclusionary zones, with many states believing that allied protection was necessary to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe that followed the Gulf war, which the U.N. authorised. The then-Soviet Union supported the zones.

"It's a measure of Iraq's isolation and unpopularity that states are treating this as an exceptional case," one senior envoy said at the time.

Nevertheless, the United States will have difficulties in crafting any kind of Security Council statement that might approve military action or obliquely lend credence to it.

U.S. officials have been consulting privately with key council members all weekend. According to one

council envoy, the legal mandate for council consideration is "one of the questions under discussion, depending on what the United States decides to do."

Resolution 688 was adopted when Kurds in the north and Shiites in the south rose up against Saddam Hussein's government in the spring of 1991 after the Gulf war. The Kurds fled to Turkey and Iran, pursued by Iraqi troops and strafed from the air, prompting a worldwide outcry.

Shortly afterwards the allies as well as U.N. humanitarian groups moved in to provide shelter for the Kurds and Iraq was warned not to fly any aircraft over the area.

In the summer of 1992, the allies cited the same resolution when they banned Iraq from flying over the southern marshes where Shiite rebels were hiding.

But even in early 1993 when President Bill Clinton launched a raid on Iraqi missile batteries in the south, the council made sure its statements ignored the bombing.

Iraq, however, has frequently pointed out the legal

difficulties and did so again over the weekend.

"The no-fly zone north of 36th Parallel and the use of hammer force (Operation Provide Comfort) using Turkish bases is rather a unilateral decision by the United States, Britain and France and not part of a resolution issued by the U.N. Security Council," said Saad Qassim Hammoudi, head of the ruling Baath Party's foreign relations office.

Iraqi troops, backed by armour and artillery, intervened on Saturday on the side of Massoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), to recapture the Kurdish stronghold of Erbil from Jalal Talbani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), who is favoured by Iran.

The Kurds now number more than 25 million and are spread across the common border of Turkey, Iraq and Iran. In addition to Iraq, which used poison gas against Kurds in 1988, Turkey and Iran have conducted military campaigns against them within their respective territories.

U.N. delays Iraqi oil plans over fears for staff safety

UNITED NATIONS — Secretary General Boutros Ghali has put off plans to implement an oil-for-food deal that would allow Baghdad to reenter oil markets for the first time in six years.

"He decided to hold off," said chief U.N. spokeswoman Sylvanna Foa. "Security for the staff is the main problem."

"The situation in northern Iraq right now is extremely tense and he doesn't feel he can send people into a situation like that," she said.

The oil-for-food programme, signed on May 20 between Iraq and the United Nations, permits Baghdad to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months in order to buy food and medicine for its people, hard-hit by six-years of U.N. trade sanctions.

The embargo was imposed in August 1990 shortly after Baghdad's troops invaded Kuwait.

Ms. Foa also said that Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz had assured Dr. Ghali in a telephone call that Baghdad's troops had been told to withdraw from the Kurdish areas where they captured the city of Erbil on Saturday.

Mr. Aziz reported that the situation was calm in Erbil, an "assessment that has been confirmed by U.N. headquarters in Baghdad," Ms. Foa added.

President Bill Clinton has already called several world leaders to discuss a "course of action" in response to the Iraqi military onslaught against one faction of rebel Kurds in northern Iraq, the White House said.

Dr. Ghali, in a statement issued by Ms. Foa's office, said he had "decided to delay the deployment of certain personnel who will supervise the implementation of Resolution 986," a reference to the document that sets out the oil-for-food plan.

The programme had been expected to be implemented within the next two weeks, presumably after the arrival of 14 oil monitors sent by the Dutch-based Saybolt Company and 32 customs officials fielded by the Britain's Lloyd's Register.

An advance team to make arrangements for the oil monitors arrived in Baghdad late last week, but the 14 had been expected to leave this week, U.N. officials said.

In order to the plan to be implemented, Dr. Ghali must assure the Security Council that all arrangements are in place, including the first group of monitors to be stationed in the north as well as the rest of the country.

Said one key Security Council envoy: "He has put the thing on ice for the time being, which is very sensible on prudence and politi-

cal grounds." But diplomatic sources said one other detail was still open — arrangements for an escrow account to be set up at France's Banque Nationale de Paris. Arrangements for this have to be approved by a Security Council committee and the United States could delay approval, they said.

The United Nations eventually intends to send a total of 260 foreign monitors to Iraq for the deal, with about 900 Iraqis hired as support staff.

Turkey sees delay

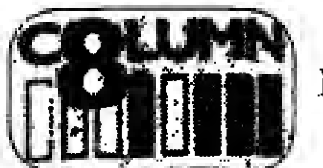
Turkish Energy Minister Recai Kutan said on Monday he expected a delay "for sometime" in the flow of Iraqi oil through a trans-Turkish pipeline under a United Nations deal because of latest incidents in the Kurdish north Iraq.

"I think the oil flow will be delayed for sometime. But we will make efforts that it is flowed by Sept. 15, as we expected earlier," he told Reuters.

"We are in liaison with the foreign ministry but the picture in the northern Iraq is not clear yet," he said. He made no further comments.

Iraq would sell more than half of its oil through the Turkish pipeline.

Turkey has repeatedly said the oil would flow through the pipeline by Sept. 15.



Love temples cracking under the strain of jet noise

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The future of a cluster of exotic Indian temples dedicated to the art of love is all up in the air, a newspaper reported Monday. Archaeological experts blame overflying aircraft for cracks which have appeared in foundations of the temples, built by medieval Hindu warriors between the ninth and 12th centuries. Now, according to the Pioneer newspaper, monsoon rains have seeped through the cracks and are further eroding the base of 23 temples of love at Khajuraho in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. The archaeological survey of India, the official curators of Khajuraho, confirmed the threat to the temples, saying sandstone repairs had failed to stop the buildings from crumbling. Iron girders have rusted, while resin injected in the cracks had not been strong enough to bond the brittle rock, the daily quoted curators as saying in state capital of Bhopal. The complex is visited every year by thousands of local and Western tourists, built to represent Indo-Aryan art by a Hindu warrior dynasty that ruled the plains of the Indian subcontinent for centuries. Some of the sculptures depict the Hindu dictionary of erotica, the Kama Sutra, while others portray pornographical postures. Only 23 of the 85 temples of love originally built are still standing.

Swedish leftist confesses to alcohol problems

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The head of Sweden's former Communist Left Party admitted Monday she had alcohol problems and was seeking treatment. "There are moments when I lose all perception," Gudrun Schyman, appearing visibly ill at ease, confessed on television. She blamed the problems on the pressure of her job and personal difficulties. However she said she did not want to leave her post at the helm of the Left Party, which supports Sweden's minority Social Democratic government.

The 48-year-old Ms. Schyman's party, which won 6.2 per cent of the vote in 1994 general elections, has said it will make a decision shortly on a treatment for her. TV2 television said she would undergo treatment in a rehabilitation centre.

Rejected Scots bagpiper emigrates in a huff

PERTH, Scotland (R) — His neighbours call it noise pollution and local authorities say it's as bad as a ghetto blaster, so bagpiper Gary Stronach says he is taking his music where it will be appreciated — the United States.

Mr. Stronach, one of only 25 professional bagpiper teachers in Scotland, said he would give lessons at a University in Virginia after his local council told him he could not practise at home. "I am really angry with my neighbours," Mr. Stronach said. "I don't think it is the volume of noise that is the problem but the amount of time that I practise. I have to put in three or four hours a day." A spokesman for Perth and Kinross council was unresponsive.

"There are no set rules as to what constitutes noise pollution — there is no difference between someone playing the bagpipes and a ghetto blaster," he said.

Mr. Stronach said he had been practising for 15 years and had won several awards.

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